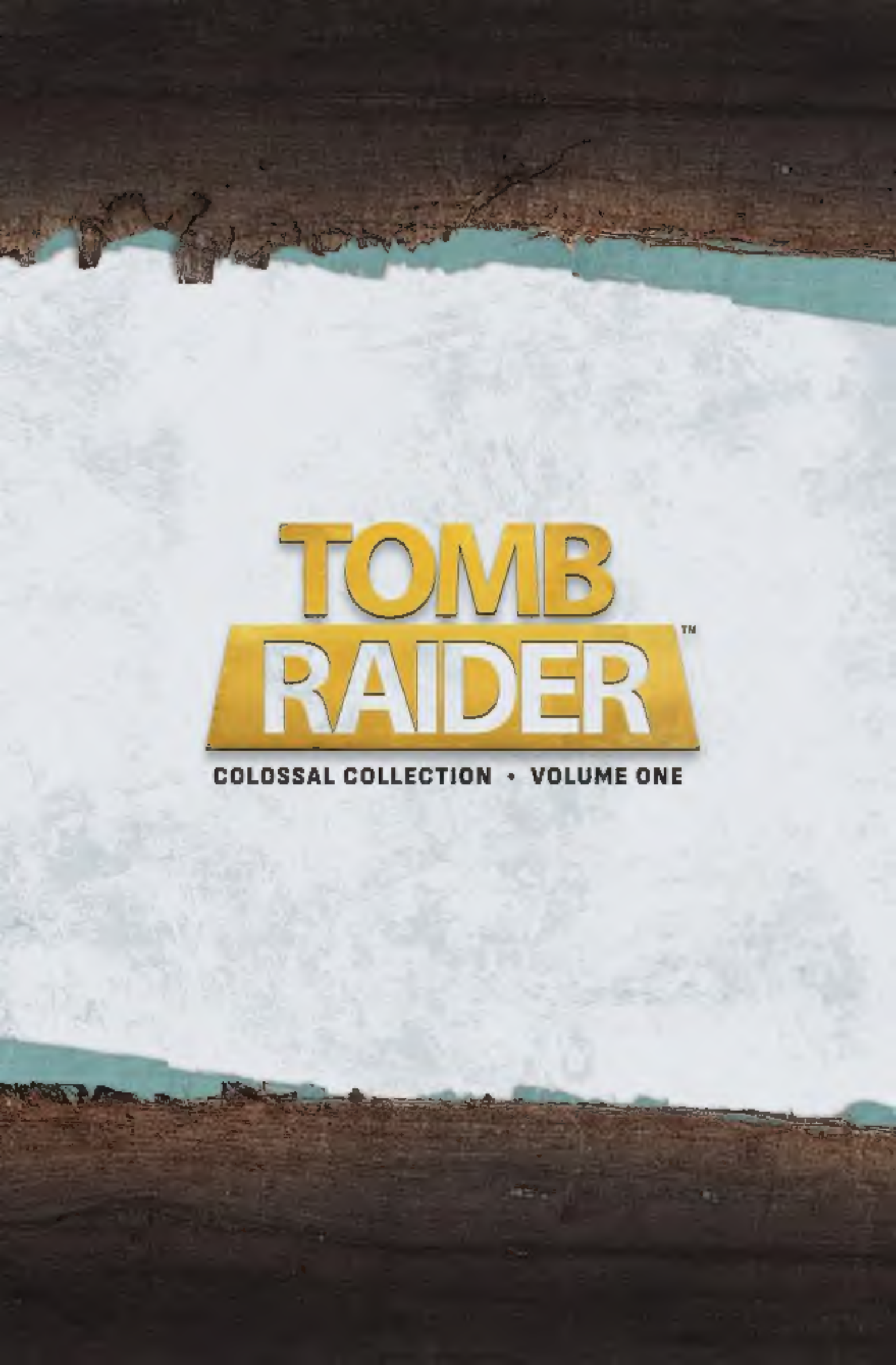
TOMB RAIDER™

COLOSSAL COLLECTION • VOLUME ONE


TOMB
RAIDER™
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COLOSSAL COLLECTION VOLUME ONE

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TO **CRYSTAL DYNAMICS.**

TOMB RAIDER COLOSSAL COLLECTION VOLUME 1

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THE MEDUSA MASK PART 1

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY [illegible]

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
[illegible]

COVER PENCILS
ANDY [illegible]

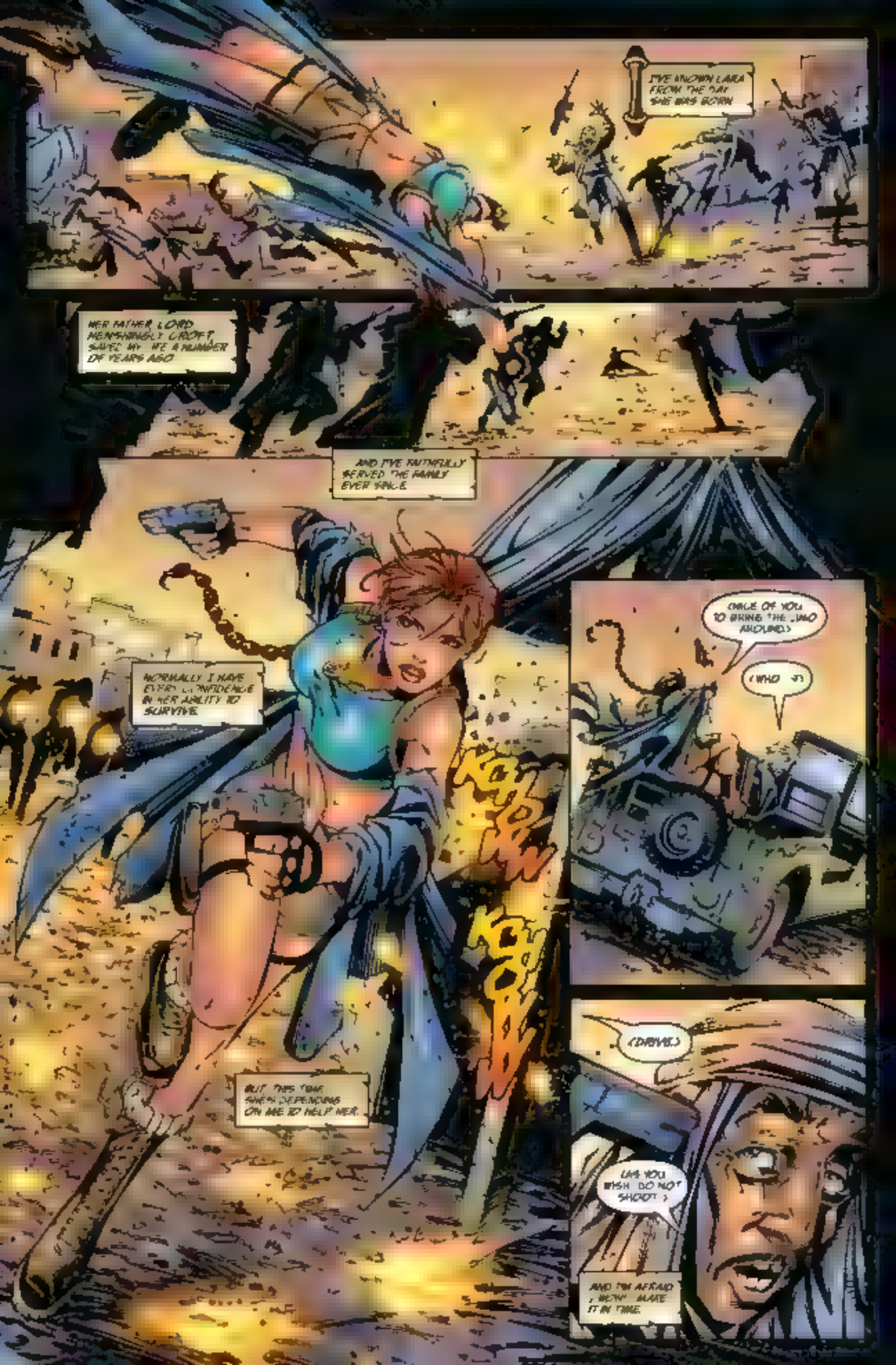
COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

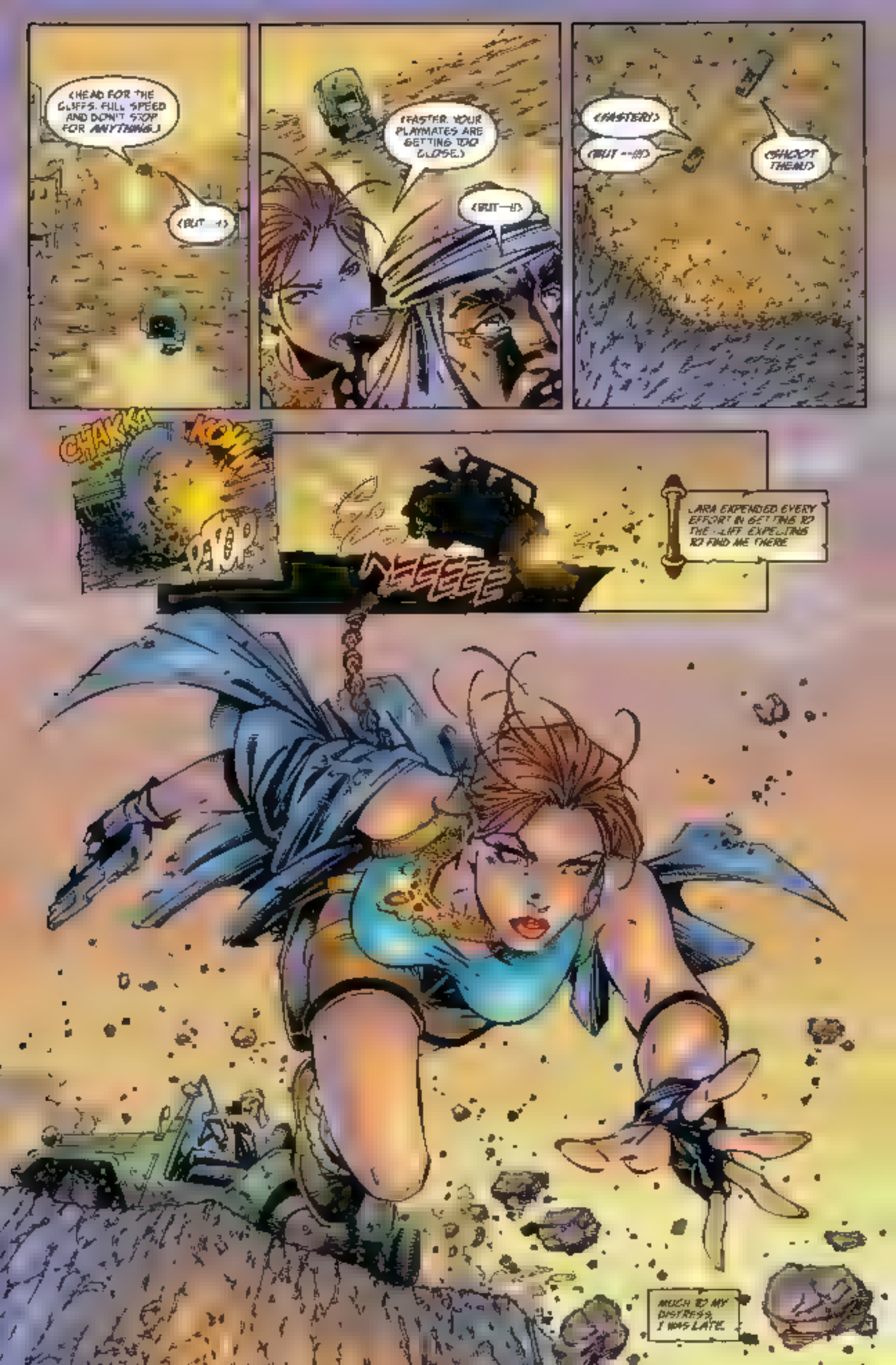
COVER COLORS
[illegible]

IRAN.
STILL AN INHOSPITABLE PLACE FOR WESTERNERS.
ESPECIALLY THOSE THEY CONSIDER THIEVES.
MALE OR FEMALE IT DOESN'T MATTER
TAKE SOMETHING THEY PERCEIVE AS THEIR OWN AND THEY'LL COME AFTER YOU.
HARD.
WITH AN ENTIRE ARMY, ARMED TO THE TEETH.
SHOULD YOU DIE DURING THE ACTION, SO MUCH THE BETTER
IF ANYTHING IT SIMPLIFIES THEIR LIVES.
FIND HER!
LET NO ONE GO UNCHECKED!
THE WESTERNER MUST BE FOUND!

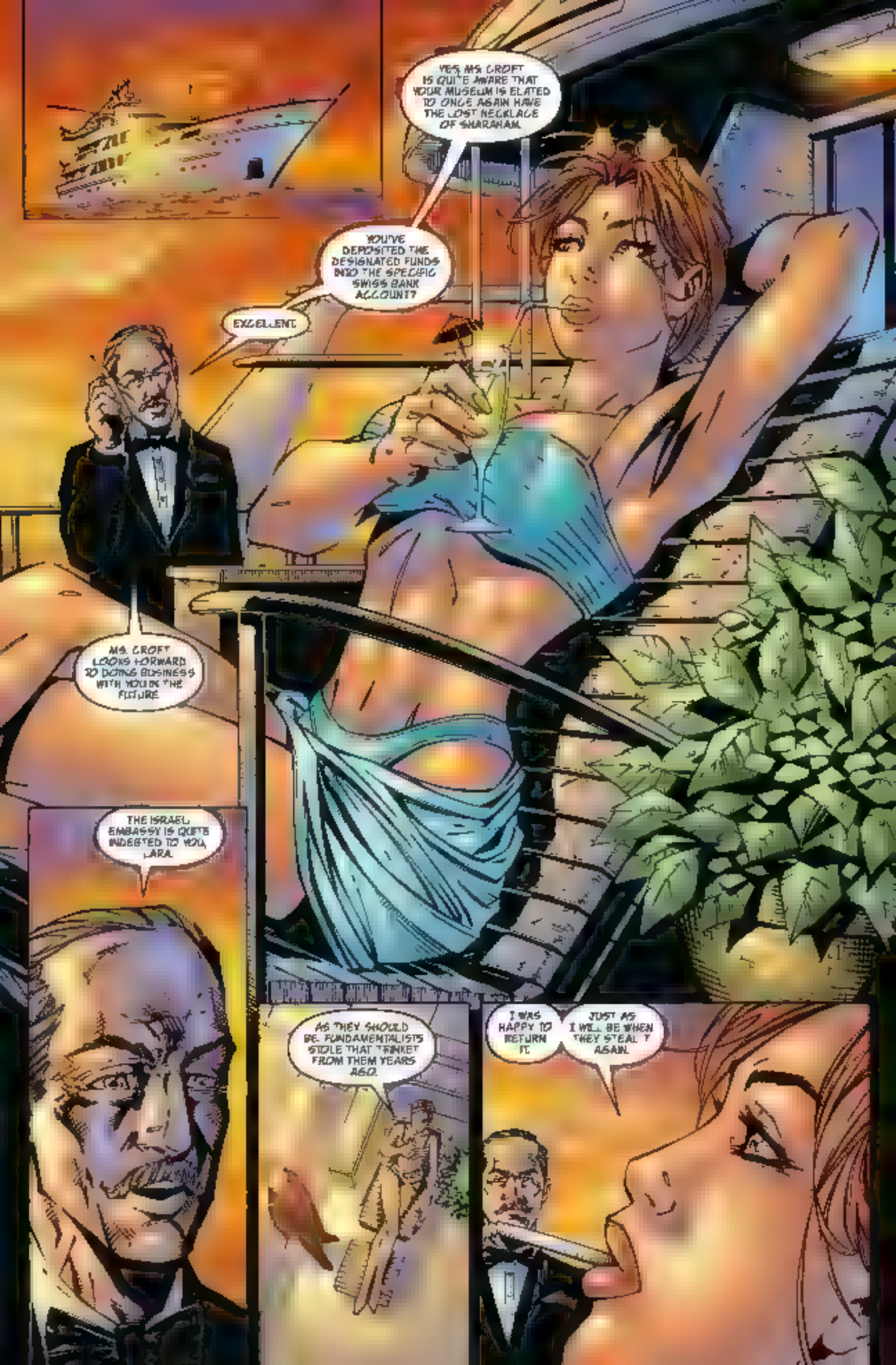
WHEN THE WOMAN IN QUESTION IS LARA CROFT
THE COMPLETE PACKAGE.
GORGEOUS, TALENTED, AND DEADLY.

(AGENT OF SATAN! DEFILER OF THAT WHICH IS SACRED!)
(EASY, COWBOY! PULL THAT TRIGGER...)
(... AND YOU'LL MAKE ONE HELL OF A MESS OF HIS 2,200 YEAR OLD NELALALE YOU'VE BEEN ORDERED TO RECOVER.)
(TAKE IT OFF NOW!)
(ON OUR FIRST DATE?)
(REALLY, SUGAR.)
(I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL.)
SHE HAS MORE MONEY THAN SHE COULD SPEND IN A HUNDRED LIFE TIMES YET ISN'T SATISFIED.
LARA CROFT CRAVES THE EXCITEMENT AND THRILL THAT COMES WHEN LIFE HANGS IN THE BALANCE.
WHEN DANGER SURROUNDS HER


I'VE KNOWN LARA FROM THE DAY SHE WAS BORN
HER FATHER, LORD HENSHINGLY CROFT, SAVED MY LIFE A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO
AND I'VE FAITHFULLY SERVED THE FAMILY EVER SINCE
NORMALLY I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN HER ABILITY TO SURVIVE
BUT THIS TIME SHE'S DEPENDING ON ME TO HELP HER.
(NICE OF YOU TO BRING THE LIMO AROUND.)
(WHO ...?)
(DRIVE.)
(AS YOU WISH. DO NOT SHOOT.)
AND I'M AFRAID I WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME.

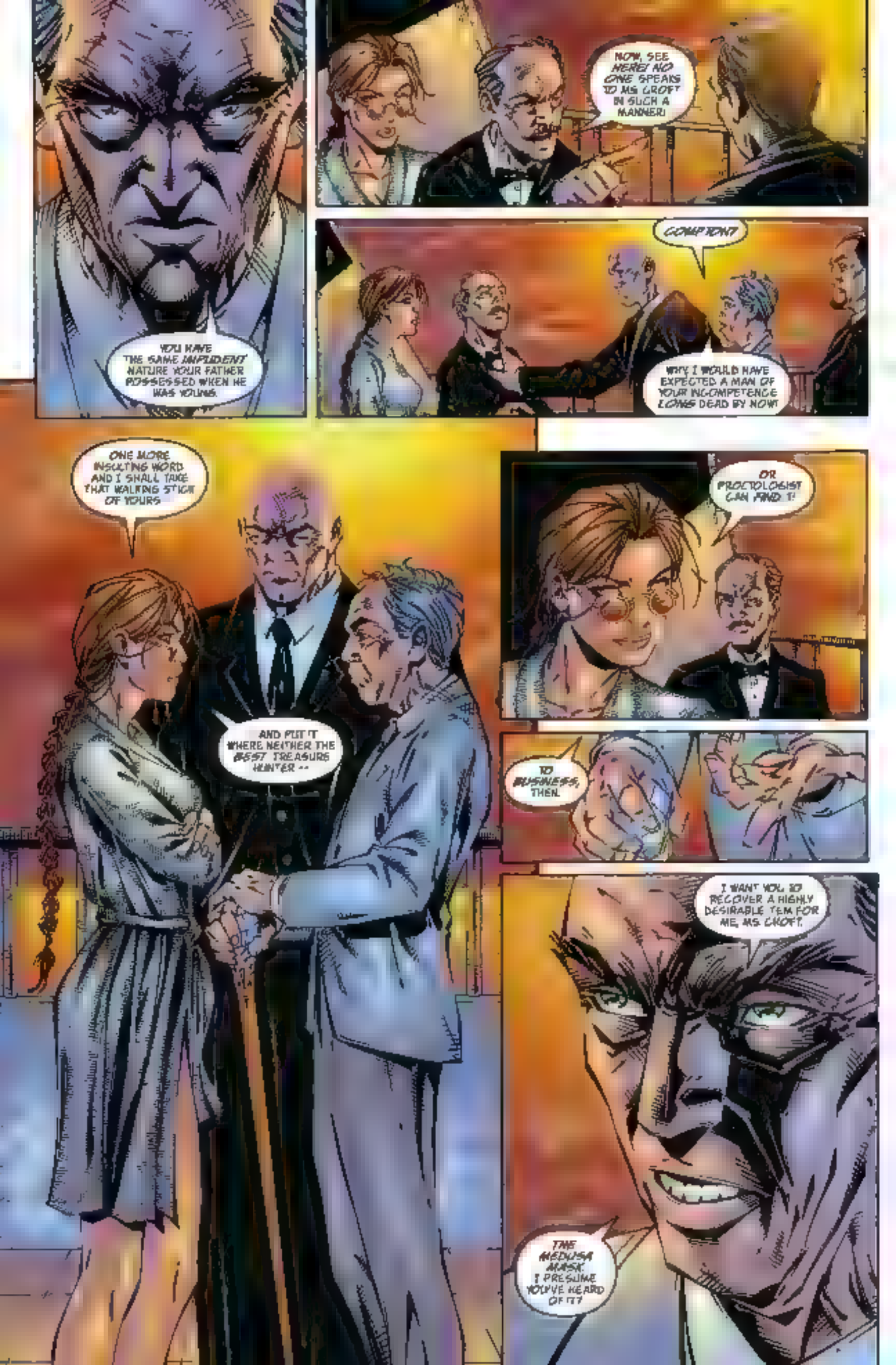

(HEAD FOR THE CLIFFS. FULL SPEED AND DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING.)
(BUT...)
(FASTER. YOUR PLAYMATES ARE GETTING TOO CLOSE.)
(BUT—)
(FASTER!)
(BUT—!!)
(SHOOT THEM!)
CHAKKA
KOW
POP
LARA EXPENDED EVERY EFFORT IN GETTING TO THE CLIFF EXPECTING TO FIND ME THERE
MUCH TO MY DISTRESS, I WAS LATE.

(FOOLS! PRAY THE NEW ALLE WAS NOT DAMAGED OR WE SHALL BE BEHEADED!)
(I THINK, MY BROTHERS, THE BEHEADING WILL COME FOR A DIFFERENT REASON.)
FORTUNATELY I WAS CLOSE ENOUGH AND SHE WAS ABLE TO CATCH THE LADDER ON THE WAY DOWN.
SURE AS MY NAME'S HARTFORD COMPTON, I WOULD'VE KILLED MYSELF HAD SHE MISSED.
(SATAN BE DAMNED! SHE HAS AN ALLY!)
(AND SINCE WE'VE BEEN SO CLOSE ALL THESE YEARS.)
(WITCH!)
FAP
(SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY!)
HOME, MS CROFT?
FIRST WE GO TO ISRAEL, COMPTON. AFTER THAT
THE MEDITERRANEAN.


YES, MS CROFT IS QUITE AWARE THAT YOUR MUSEUM IS ELATED TO ONCE AGAIN HAVE THE LOST NECKLACE OF SHARAHAM.
YOU'VE DEPOSITED THE DESIGNATED FUNDS INTO THE SPECIFIC SWISS BANK ACCOUNT?
EXCELENT.
MS. CROFT LOOKS FORWARD TO DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE.
THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IS QUITE INDEBTED TO YOU, LARA.
AS THEY SHOULD BE. FUNDAMENTALISTS STOLE THAT TRINKET FROM THEM YEARS AGO.
I WAS HAPPY TO RETURN IT.
JUST AS I WILL BE WHEN THEY STEAL IT AGAIN.

WOULD YOU CARE FOR ANOTHER?
UH-UH TIME TO GET DRESSED FOR MY MEETING.
MEETING? HERE?!
PARIS DARSEINE WILL BE ARRIVING SOON.
IT SEEMS THERE'S A UNIQUE AND PRECIOUS OBJECT HE WISHES ME TO RECOVER.
DARSEINE?
MS CROFT! HE IS A TERRIBLY RUTHLESS AND DANGEROUS MAN! HE -
COMPTON.
YOU'VE BEEN AN INVALUABLE FRIEND TO MY FAMILY SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, AND I VALUE YOUR JUDGMENT.
BUT DARSEINE HAS AN OFFER AND IT NEVER HURTS TO LISTEN.
..OF COURSE.
NOT ANOTHER WORD.
THEY'RE HERE.

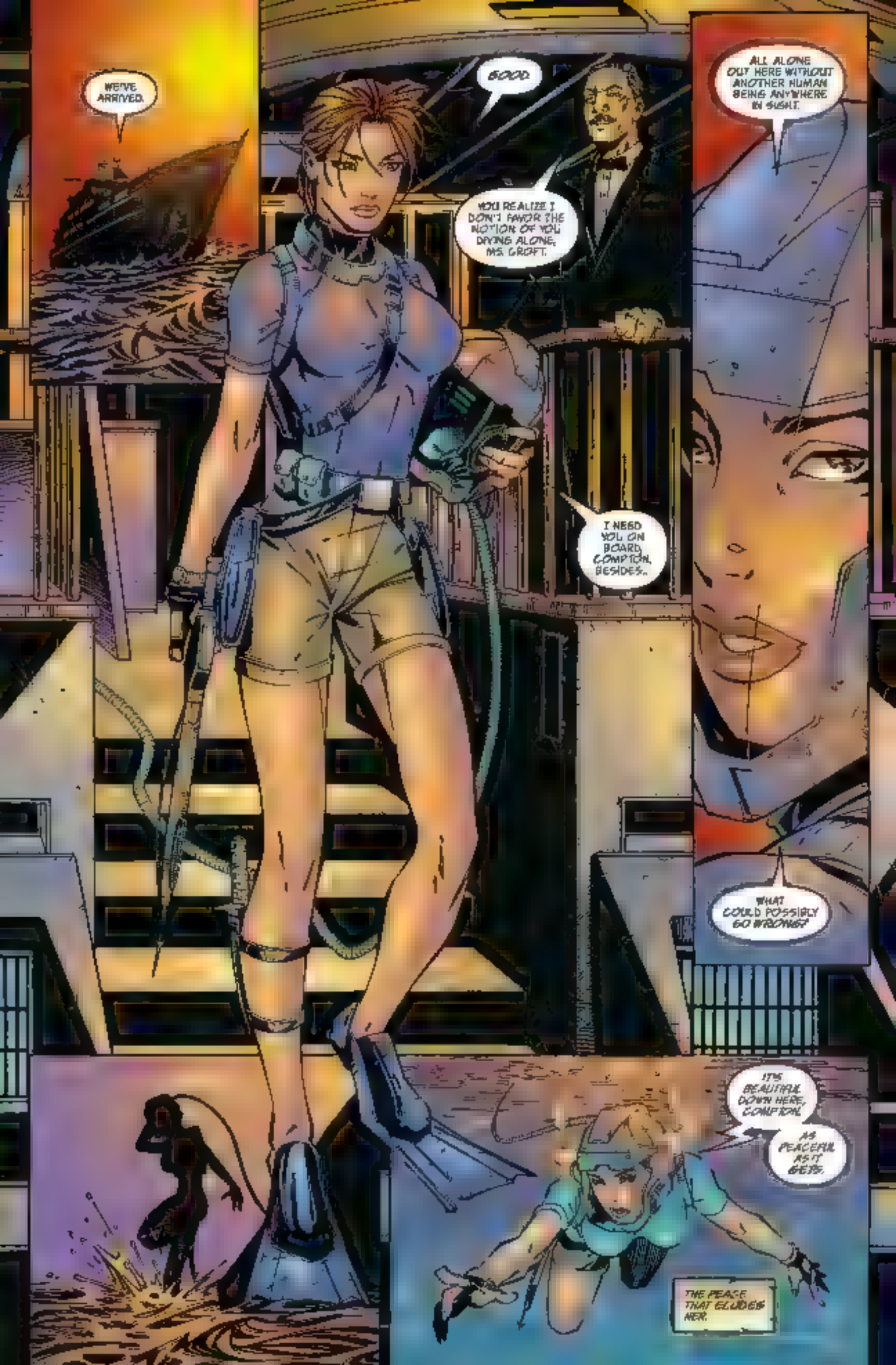
I WATCH WITH A SENSE OF DREAD AS THE PLANE GLIDES CLOSER.
THE FEW PEOPLE WHO KNOW OF PARIS DARGENE'S EXISTENCE AND AFFAIRS --
GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO AVOID HIM.
MISS CROFT
I AM ENCHANTED...NO, INEBRIATED WITH DELIGHT AT FINALLY MEETING ONE SO ACCOMPLISHED AS YOURSELF.
MIGHT I ADD THAT THOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE EXCEEDED ONLY BY YOUR BEAUTY.
MIGHT I ALSO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR SUCCESS IN IRAN A FEW HOURS AGO.
NEWS TRAVELS FAST.
MY RESOURCES BORDER ON THE INFINITE, DEAR LADY.
IF ANYTHING TRANSPIRES ANYWHERE, I KNOW OF IT.
IF YOUR RESOURCES WERE AS INFINITE AS YOU SAY...
...YOU WOULDN'T NEED ME.

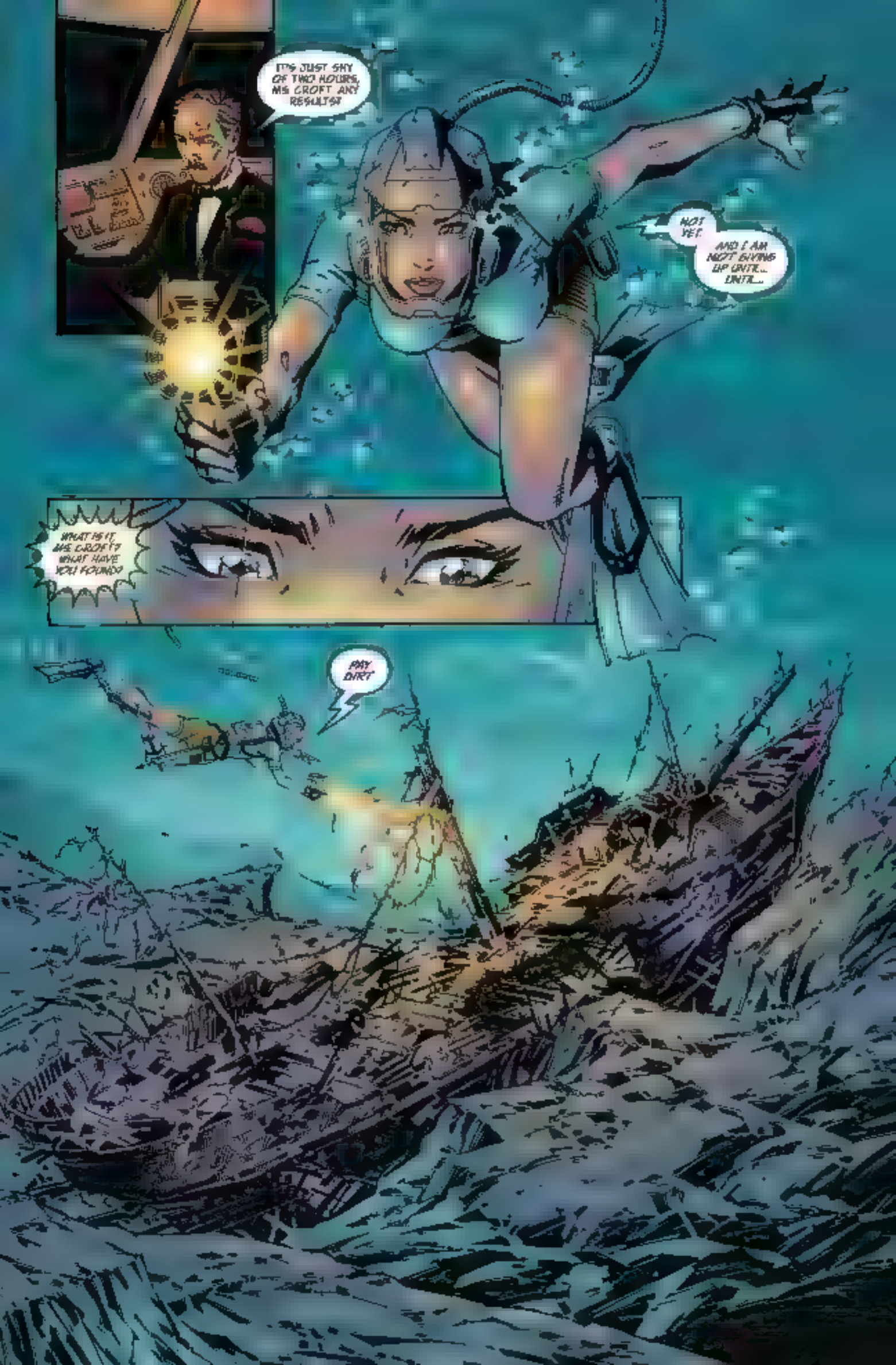

NOW, SEE HERE! NO ONE SPEAKS TO MS CROFT IN SUCH A MANNER!
YOU HAVE THE SAME IMPLUDENT NATURE YOUR FATHER POSSESSED WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
COMPTON?
WHY I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED A MAN OF YOUR INCOMPETENCE LONGS DEAD BY NOW!
ONE MORE INSULTING WORD AND I SHALL TAKE THAT WALKING STICK OF YOURS
OR PROCTOLOGIST CAN FIND IT!
AND PUT IT WHERE NEITHER THE BEST TREASURE HUNTER --
TO BUSINESS, THEN.
I WANT YOU TO RECOVER A HIGHLY DESIRABLE ITEM FOR ME, MS CROFT.
THE MEDUSA MASK. I PRESUME YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?

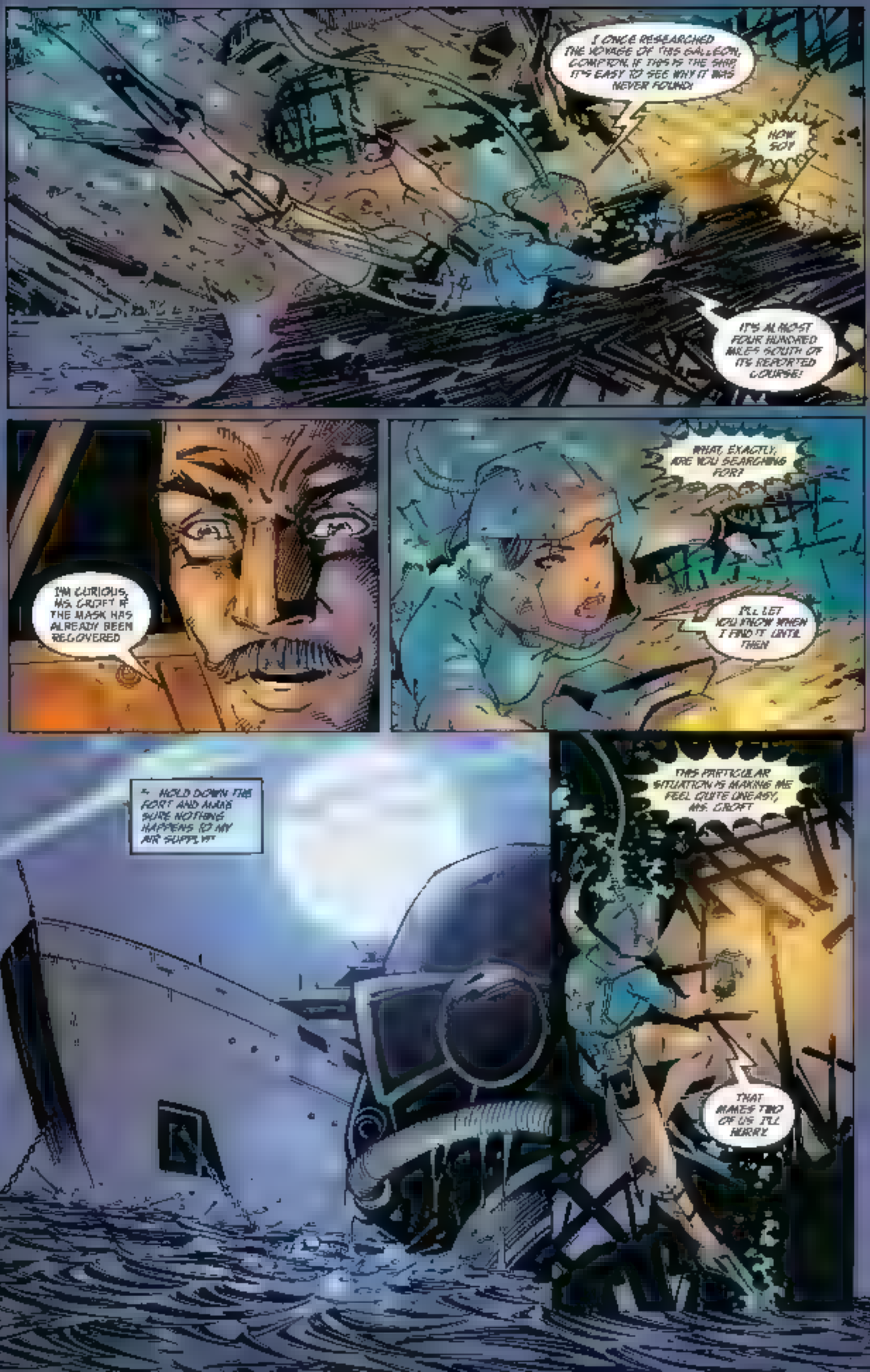
YOU BELIEVE IT REALLY EXISTS?
INDEED
THE LAST TIME THE MASK IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN IN ANYONE'S POSSESSION WAS 1606.
ITS WEALTHY OWNER CARRIED IT ABOARD A SPANISH GALLEON, COURSING THE ATLANTIC TO THE AMERICAS
A VIOLENT STORM SANK THE SHIP. ITS FINAL RESTING PLACE UNKNOWN UNTIL NOW
IT WAS RECOVERED BY WHOM?
UNKNOWN. I ONLY KNOW THAT THE WRECK WAS LOCATED AND THE MASK LIBERATED FROM ITS WATERY GRAVE.
YOU KNOW THIS FOR A FACT?
THE PRODUCT OF MY INFINITE RESOURCES
YEAH. RIGHT
FORGIVE MY INTRUSION, MS CROFT. BUT WHAT, EXACTLY IS HIS... MEDUSA MASK?
LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE MASK WAS CREATED CENTURIES AGO, AN AMALGAM OF GOLD AND SORCERY, WORN BY MEDUSA HERSELF.

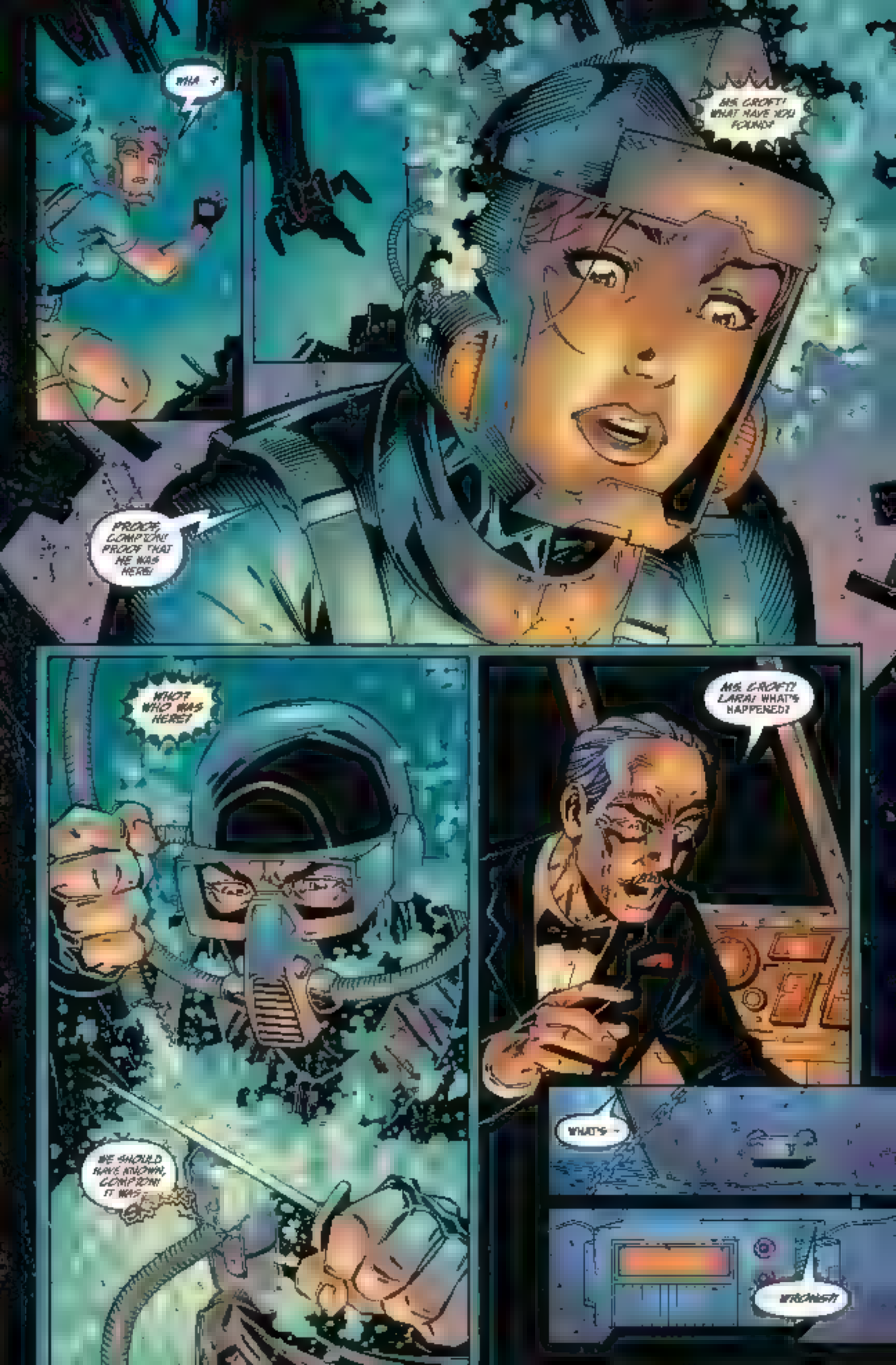
SUPPOSEDLY, THE WEARER OF THE MASK GAINS GREAT POWERS, SUCH AS THE GAZE OF DEATH.
IF IT DOES EXIST, THEREBY AUTHENTICATING MEDUSA AND GREEK MYTH, IT IS ONE OF THE MOST CHERISHED ARTIFACTS ONE MIGHT POSSESS.
AND YOU WANT ME TO GET IT FOR YOU.
NAME YOUR PRICE. A MILLION?
TWO? THREE?
MY PRICE IS THIS: I WISH NO MORE THAN...
IT.
EH?
THAT'S... ALL? THAT'S YOUR PRICE?
AGREE, AND PROVIDING THE MASK IS OUT THERE IT'S AS GOOD AS YOURS.
GUARANTEED.
AGREED.

NOW THAT THE DETESTABLE LITTLE MAN IS GONE, MIGHT I ASK WHERE YOU'LL BEGIN?
HE'LL RADIO US WITH THE LOCATION OF THE SUNKEN GALLEON WITHIN THE HOUR.
WAKE ME IN THE MORNING. UNTIL THEN I'D LIKE TO REST.
REST?
AT TIMES SUCH AS THIS, IT BECOMES ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT LARA CROFT IS, PERHAPS, THE MOST RESTLESS YOUNG WOMAN ALIVE.
THOUGH I'M NO PSYCHOANALYST, HER LOSSES IN LIFE --
HER FATHER, MOTHER AND FIANCEE IN A PLANE CRASH
DROVE HER FOREVER ONWARD, IN SEARCH OF THAT WHICH CAN'T BE FOUND
HER OWN PERSONAL PEACE INCLUDED.

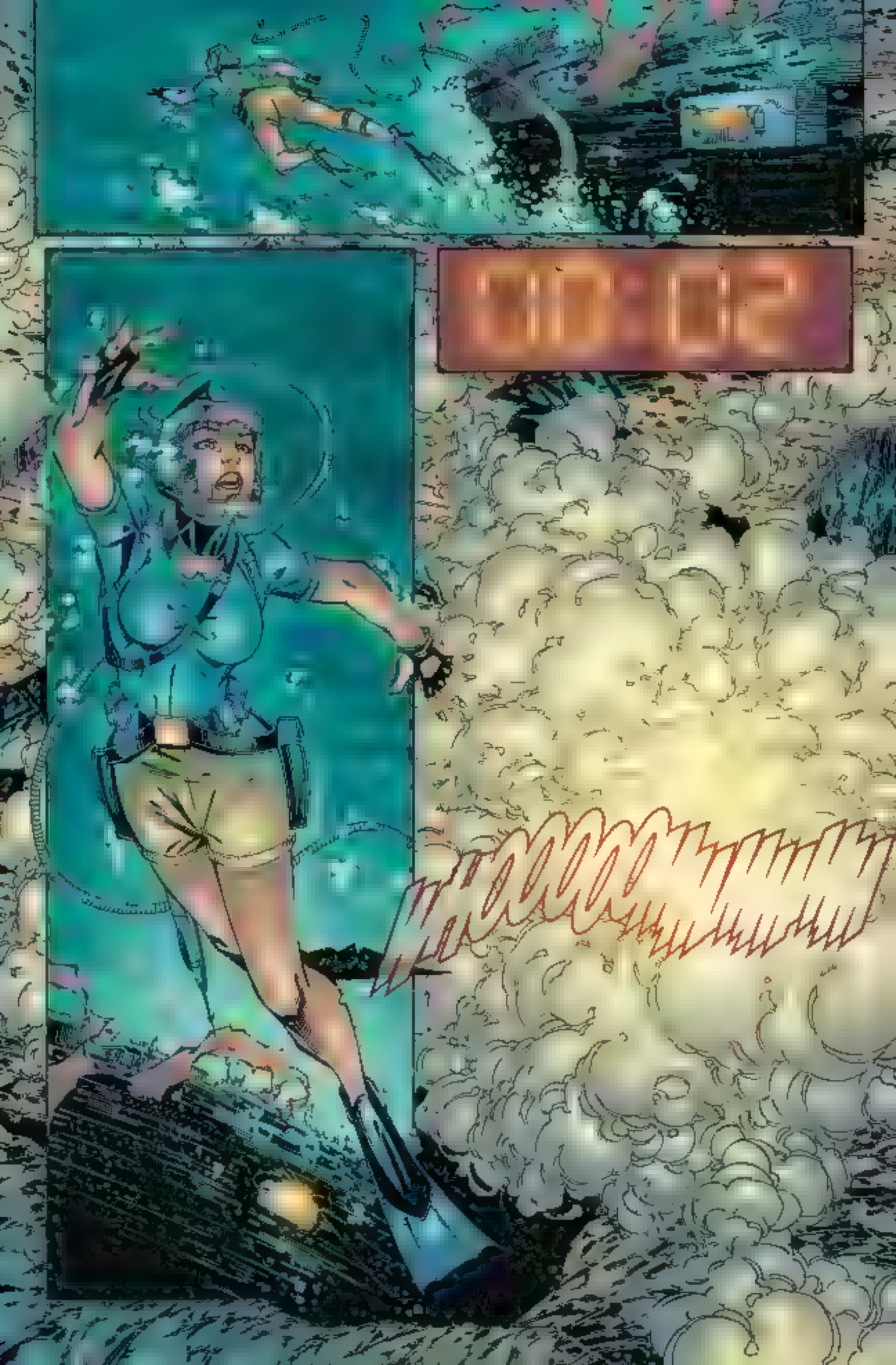

WE'VE ARRIVED.
GOOD.
YOU REALIZE I DON'T FAVOR THE NOTION OF YOU DYING ALONE, MS. CROFT.
I NEED YOU ON BOARD, COMPTON. BESIDES..
ALL ALONE OUT HERE WITHOUT ANOTHER HUMAN BEING ANYWHERE IN SIGHT.
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL DOWN HERE, COMPTON.
AS PEACEFUL AS IT GETS.
THE PEACE THAT ELUDES HER.


IT'S JUST SHY OF TWO HOURS, MS CROFT. ANY RESULTS?
NOT YET.
AND I AM NOT GIVING UP UNTIL... UNTIL...
WHAT IS IT, MS CROFT? WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?
PAY DIRT


I ONCE RESEARCHED THE VOYAGE OF THIS GALLEON, COMPTON. IF THIS IS THE SHIP IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY IT WAS NEVER FOUND.
HOW SO?
IT'S ALMOST FOUR HUNDRED MILES SOUTH OF ITS REPORTED COURSE!
I'M CURIOUS, MS. CROFT IF THE MASK HAS ALREADY BEEN RECOVERED
WHAT, EXACTLY, ARE YOU SEARCHING FOR?
I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I FIND IT. UNTIL THEN
I HOLD DOWN THE FORT AND MAKE SURE NOTHING HAPPENS TO MY AIR SUPPLY!
THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION IS MAKING ME FEEL QUITE UNEASY, MS. CROFT
THAT MAKES TWO OF US. I'LL HURRY.


WHA -?
MS. CROFT! WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?
PROOF, COMPTON! PROOF THAT HE WAS HERE!
WHO? WHO WAS HERE?
WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, COMPTON! IT WAS
MS. CROFT! LARA! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WHAT'S -
WRONG?!

BTH-OOOOOMMM
COMPTON? WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY
DAMN.


10:02

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH IN
TOMB RAIDER #2!!!
(AT LEAST WE HOPE SO)

ROSA MASK PART 2
JD SMITH

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
[redacted]

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

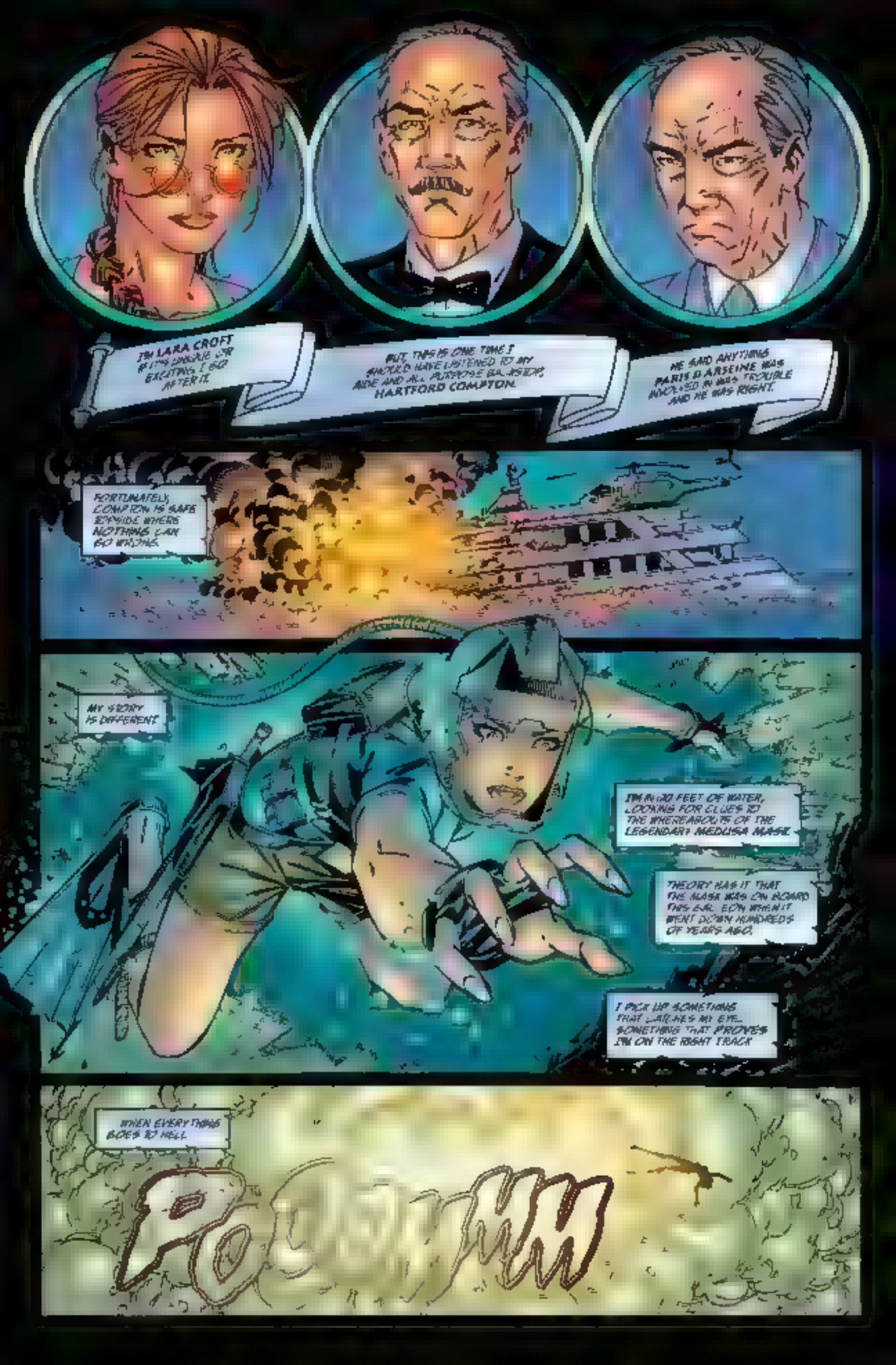
COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
[redacted]

COVER PENCILS
[redacted]

COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH


I'M LARA CROFT IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING I GO AFTER IT.
BUT, THIS IS ONE TIME I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY AIDE AND ALL PURPOSE BACKSTOP, HARTFORD COMPTON.
HE SAID ANYTHING PARIS D'ARSEINE WAS INVOLVED IN WAS TROUBLE AND HE WAS RIGHT.
FORTUNATELY, COMPTON IS SAFE TOPSIDE WHERE NOTHING CAN GO WRONG.
MY STORY IS DIFFERENT.
I'M IN 100 FEET OF WATER, LOOKING FOR CLUES TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE LEGENDARY MEDUSA MASK.
THEORY HAS IT THAT THE MASK WAS ON BOARD THIS GALLEON WHEN IT WENT DOWN HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO.
I PICK UP SOMETHING THAT CATCHES MY EYE... SOMETHING THAT PROVES I'M ON THE RIGHT TRACK
WHEN EVERYTHING GOES TO HELL
POOOMMM

COMPANY.
PROBABLY THE ONES WHO SET OFF THE EXPLOSIONS AND CUT MY AIR HOSE.
THEY BETTER WORK FAST OR THE 'IL HAVE COMPETITION FROM THE SHARKS.
MIGHT AS WELL PLAY ALONG AND SEE WHAT THEY'RE AFTER.
CHEAP THRILLS?
NO.

THEY WANT THE OBJECT I GRABBED.
AND THEY WON'T GET IT.
?!
YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANYMORE.
BUT I DO.
NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET.

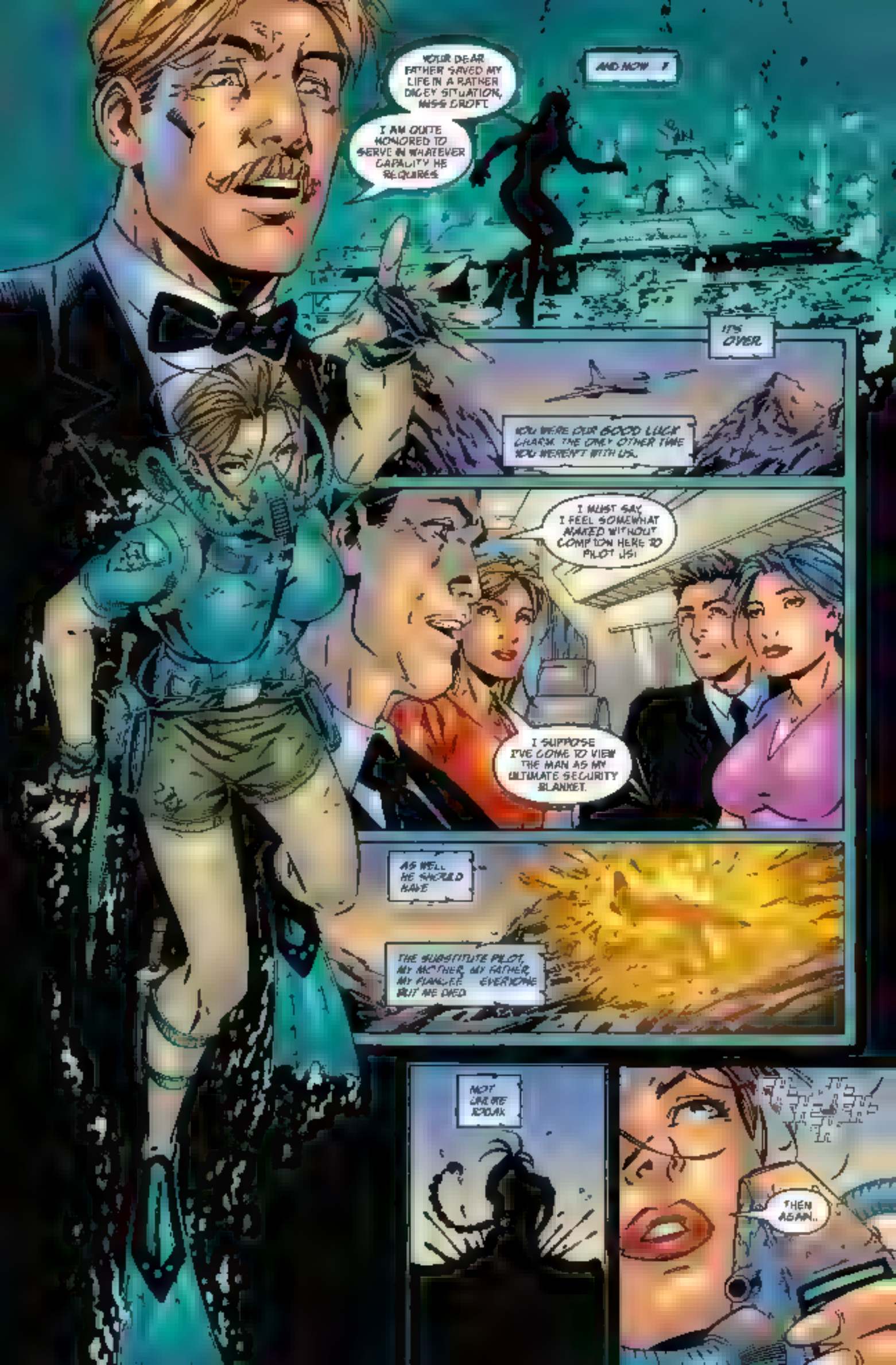
WERE THEY ONLY AFTER ME OR ...?
COMPRONI

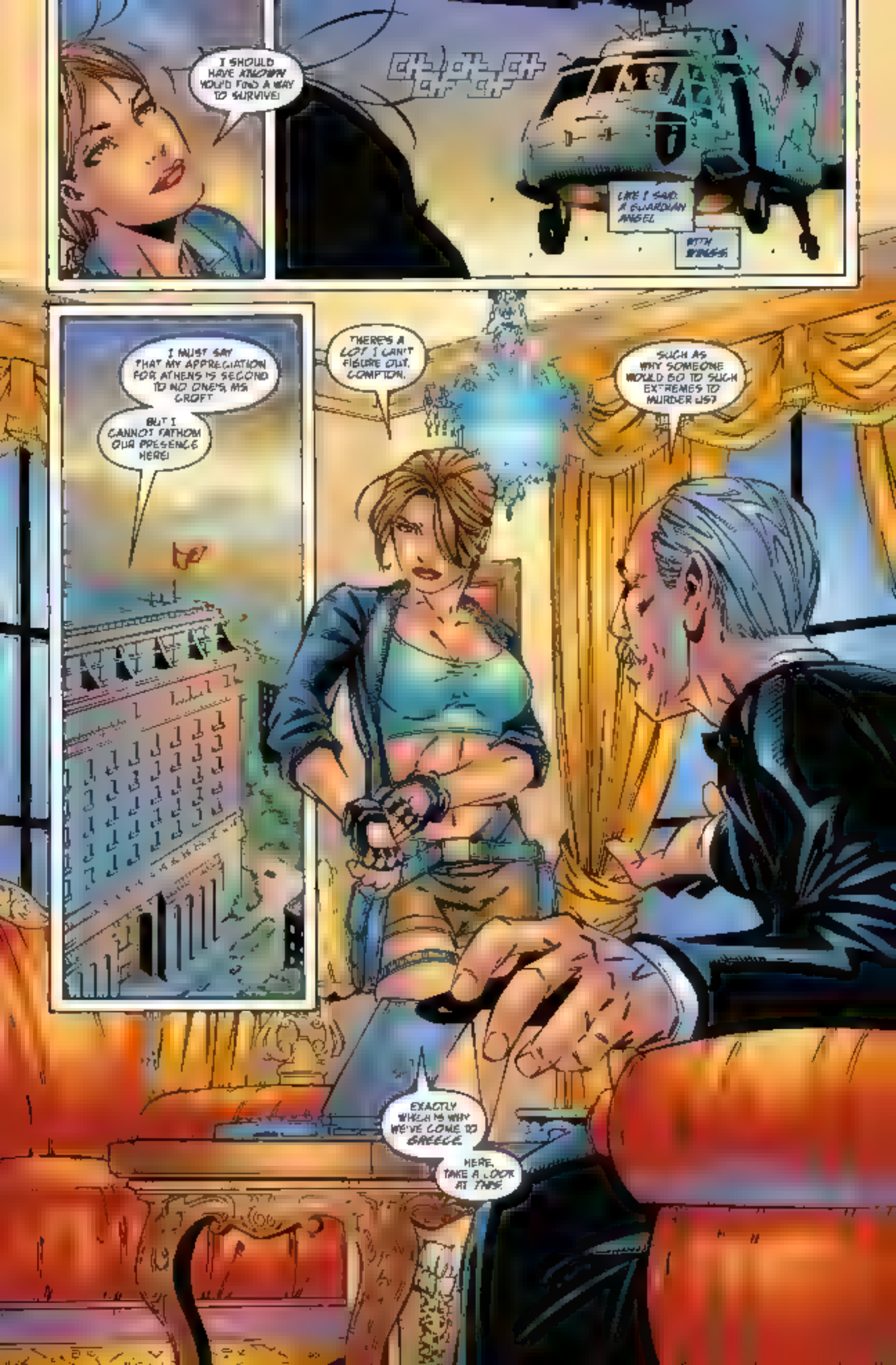
HUMAN!
STILL NOT OUT OF THE WOODS.
WHEN I CAN HANDLE
SHARKS? ALMOST AS DUMB!
AND A LOT MORE DANGEROUS.
HEY! WHAT'S THAT OVER--?
NOW

IT CAN'T BE.
MY VACATT
COMPTON!
COMPTON IS NOT FOR YOU!
MAY WE GO TO THE STORE, DADDY? PLEASE?
NOPE. NOW, LARA, DADDY'S IN LONDON FOR BUSINESS.
NOTHING SO BLOODY IMPORTANT THAT WE CAN'T INCLUDE OUR DAUGHTER, ANDREA!

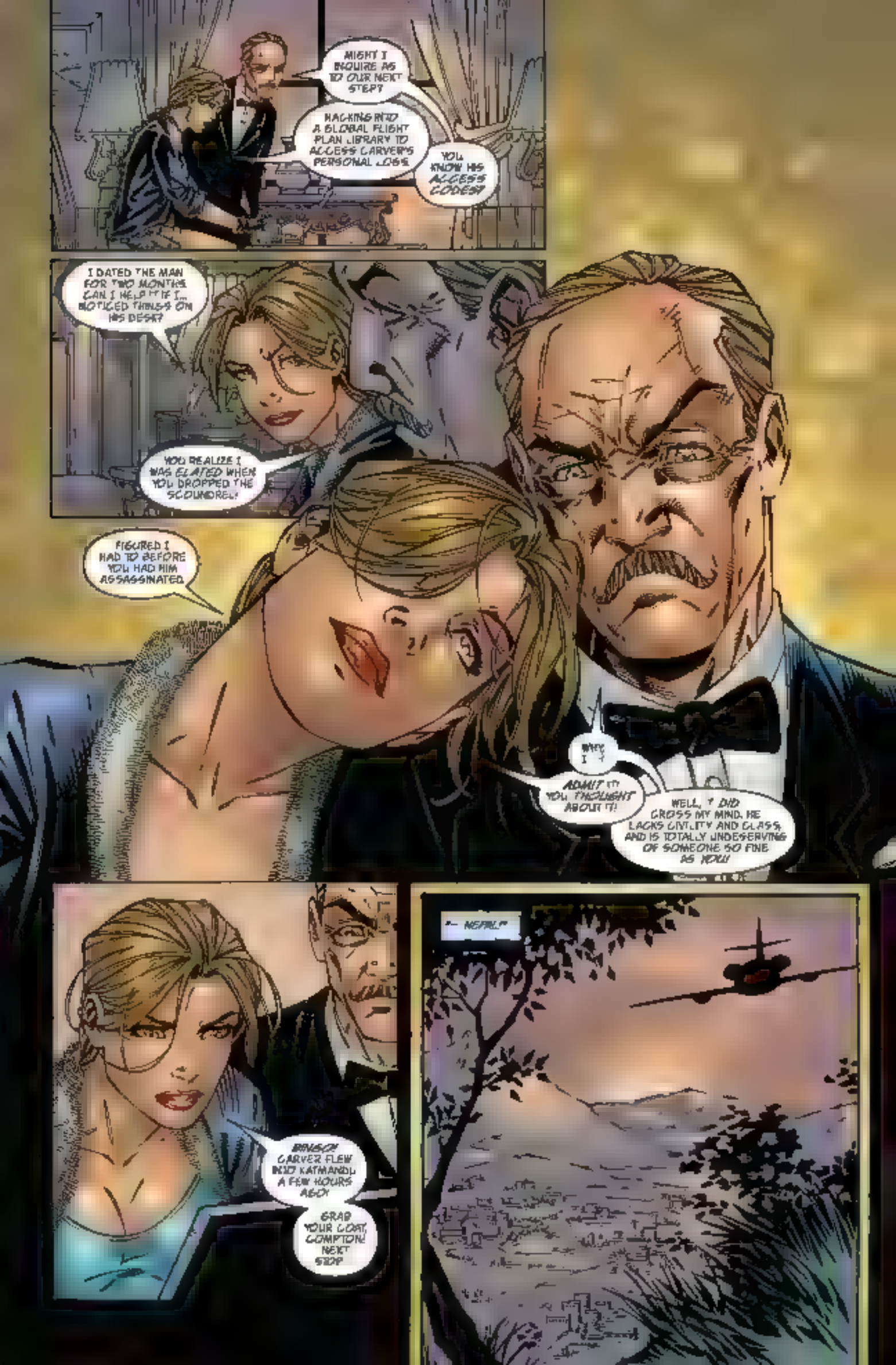
NOW! MOVE IT!
KILL PEOPLE LIKE LORD KENSINGLY CROFT AND THEY'LL GIVE IRELAND BACK TO THE IRISH SOON ENOUGH!
YES, COMPTON
IF NOT FOR YOU
BLOODY TERRORISTS!
WE'D HAVE DIED THAT DAY.
YOU'RE COWARDS! THE LOT OF YOU!
WE...IN TO GUN DOWN AN UNARMED FAMILY?
FOR A POLITICAL CAUSE YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND?
YOU'RE SICK!

YOU SAVED US ALL
UNTIL THEN, I MERELY THOUGHT OF YOU AS DADDY'S DRIVER.
FROM THAT DAY ON --
A GUARDIAN ANGEL.
ADMIRABLE JOB, COMPTON. VERY PROFESSIONAL.
THAT'S WHAT YOU PAY HIM FOR, LORD CROFT.
WOW!
I...I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD DO THAT STUFF!
COMPTON IS MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN A CHAUFFEUR, LARA. HE'S BEEN WITH ME SINCE WE SERVED IN THE FALKLANDS WAR!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I REALIZED MY FAMILY HAD BODYGUARDS.


YOUR DEAR FATHER SAVED MY LIFE IN A RATHER DICEY SITUATION, MISS CROFT.
I AM QUITE HONORED TO SERVE IN WHATEVER CAPABILITY HE REQUIRES.
AND NOW ?
IT'S OVER.
YOU WERE OUR GOOD LUCK CHARM. THE ONLY OTHER TIME YOU WEREN'T WITH US...
I MUST SAY, I FEEL SOMEWHAT NAKED WITHOUT COMPTON HERE TO PILOT US!
I SUPPOSE I'VE COME TO VIEW THE MAN AS MY ULTIMATE SECURITY BLANKET.
AS WELL HE SHOULD HAVE
THE SUBSTITUTE PILOT, MY MOTHER, MY FATHER, MY FIANCÉE... EVERYONE BUT ME DIED.
NOT LIKE ME ICICLE.
THEN AGAIN..

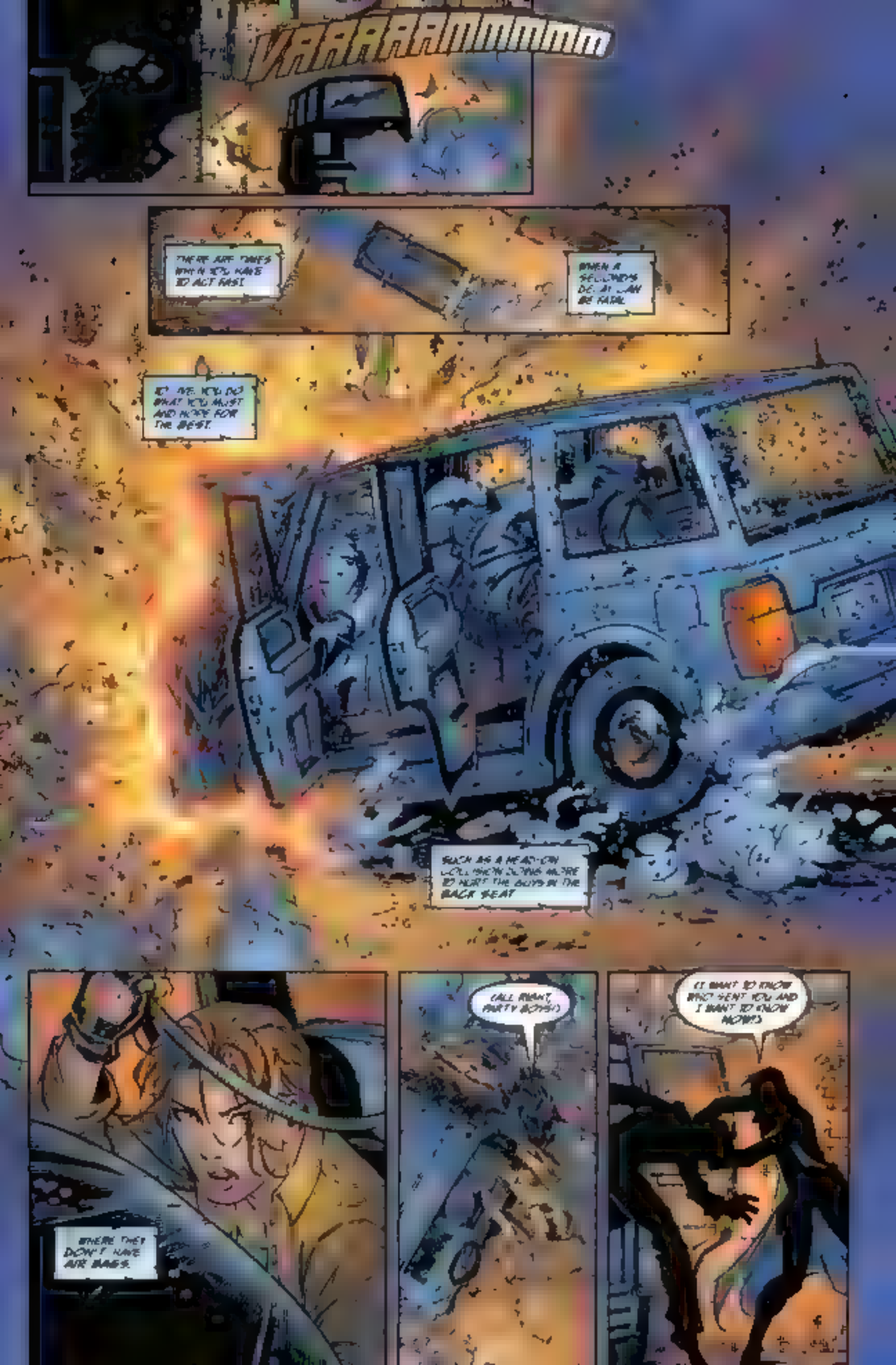

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D FIND A WAY TO SURVIVE!
#-#-#
LIKE I SAID: A GUARDIAN ANGEL
WITH WINGS.
I MUST SAY THAT MY APPRECIATION FOR ATHENS IS SECOND TO NO ONE'S, MS CROFT.
BUT I CANNOT FATHOM OUR PRESENCE HERE!
THERE'S A LOT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT, COMPTON.
SUCH AS WHY SOMEONE WOULD GO TO SUCH EXTREMES TO MURDER US?
EXACTLY WHICH IS WHY WE'VE COME TO GREECE.
HERE, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

FOUND IT ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, RIGHT NEXT TO THE GALLEON.
GOOD LORD! CARVER WAS THERE?
APPARENTLY SO. WE'RE AFTER THE SAME TEM ONCE AGAIN.
CHASE CARVER! RARELY HAVE I DESPISED A BLOKE AS MUCH AS I DO HIM!
THAT MAKES TWO OF US. HIS EGO DEMANDS THAT WHENEVER HE'S IN PURSUIT OF SOMETHING
HE LEAVES A CALLING CARD TO LET EVERYONE ELSE KNOW HE'S THE FRONT RUNNER
STILL... I DOUBT HE'S THE ONE WHO TRIED TO KILL US.
MORE LIKELY ANOTHER PLAYER WE HAVEN'T IDENTIFIED.
DO YOU SUPPOSE CARVER'S FOUND THE MEDUSA MASK?
IF SO, DARSEINE ALREADY WOULD HAVE BOUGHT IT FROM HIM.
YOU'RE CERTAIN THE MASK EXISTS?
IF DARSEINE SAYS SO, BET ON IT.


MIGHT I INQUIRE AS TO OUR NEXT STEP?
HACKING INTO A GLOBAL FLIGHT PLAN LIBRARY TO ACCESS CARVER'S PERSONAL LOGS.
YOU KNOW HIS ACCESS CODES?
I DATED THE MAN FOR TWO MONTHS. CAN I HELP IT IF I... NOTICED THINGS ON HIS DESK?
YOU REALIZE I WAS ELATED WHEN YOU DROPPED THE SCOUNDREL!
FIGURED I HAD TO BEFORE YOU HAD HIM ASSASSINATED.
WHY, I--
ADMIT IT! YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT!
WELL, I DID CROSS MY MIND. HE LACKS CIVILITY AND CLASS, AND IS TOTALLY UNDESERVING OF SOMEONE SO FINE AS YOU!
BINGO! CARVER FLEW INTO KATMANDU A FEW HOURS AGO!
GRAB YOUR COAT, COMPTON! NEXT STOP
-- NEPAL!

I'M NOT FOND OF THOSE WHO COMPLAIN, MS CROFT, BUT I RATHER DETEST THIS INFERNAL COUNTRY.
OH, RELAX. AVOID THE WATER AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
THERE'S OUR RENTAL. LET'S GO!
SO WHERE? YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE LARVER MIGHT BE!
NO, BUT A DEALER OF SECRETS NAMED JALI MIGHT.
HEAD INTO THE ANCIENT QUARTER. I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE TO GO.
THE STREETS ARE SO NARROW. THE BUILDINGS SO CLOSE TOGETHER...
IT MAKES FOR AN EASY AMBUSH, MS CROFT!
DON'T BE PARANOID!
YOU THINK THE FISH TRIED TO BLOW UP THE YACHT?
GOOD POINT.

SO LONG AS WE KEEP OUR EYES PEELED
AND KEEP OUR GUARD UP. WE SHOULD BE
FINE!
MR. CROFT!
<DEATH TO THE INFIDELS!>
BLOODY DEVILS
DON'T BRAKE!
STEP ON IT!


VAAAAAMMMMMM
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU HAVE TO ACT FAST.
WHEN A SECOND'S DECISION CAN BE FATAL.
SO ME, YOU DO WHAT YOU MUST AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.
SUCH AS A HEAD-ON COLLISION DOING MORE TO HURT THE GUYS IN THE BACK SEAT
WHERE THEY DON'T HAVE AIR BAGS.
(ALL RIGHT, PARTY BOYS!)
(I WANT TO KNOW WHO SENT YOU AND I WANT TO KNOW NOW!)

I CONFESS, WESTERNER. I WAS I WHO PLACED THE ASSASSINS IN YOUR VEHICLE.
TAJ?
THE LAST TIME WE DID BUSINESS YOU LEFT ME WITH NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, WOMAN.
I TOLD YOU THEN THAT I NEVER WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
BELIEVE ME, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TROUBLE IS, TAJ!
YOUR THREATS ARE HOLLOW, WESTERNER
THIS INFORMATION YOU WANT INFORMATION YOU CAN ONLY GET FROM ME.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
WHO TOLD YOU I WAS COMING?

THE SECRETS OF NEPAL ARE MY BUSINESS, WOMAN.
HOW COULD I NOT KNOW OF YOUR ARRIVAL?
A TRUCE, THEN. TELL ME WHERE CHASE CARVER IS AND I PROMISE NOT TO CUT YOUR TONGUE OUT!
YOU ARE THE SECOND PERSON TO ASK OF HIM.
SOMEONE ELSE IS AFTER CARVER AND THE MEDUSA MASK? WHO?
THE MEDUSA MASK?
I...KNOW NOTHING OF THIS!
LEAVE THIS PLACE! LEAVE IT AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
NOT A CHANCE, LITTLE MAN. YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT OR I'LL GIVE YOU TO COMPTON!
AND YOU DO NOT WANT TO HAVE HIM WORK YOU OVER!
UNGH! NNNNG!
TAJ...?

COMPTON!
TIME TO CLEAR OUT!
THE DOOR WAY BEHIND YOU, MS CROFT SEEK REFUGE THERE BEFORE
AAARGH!
COMPTON!
LET ME GO OR I'LL

NOT ANOTHER WORD, DARLIN'
NOT ANOTHER, BLESSED WORD.
CONTINUED NEXT MONTH IN TOMB RAIDER #3! BE THERE!

THE MEDUSA MASK PART 3
JD SMITH

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL AND DANNY MIKI

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DENNIS HEISLER

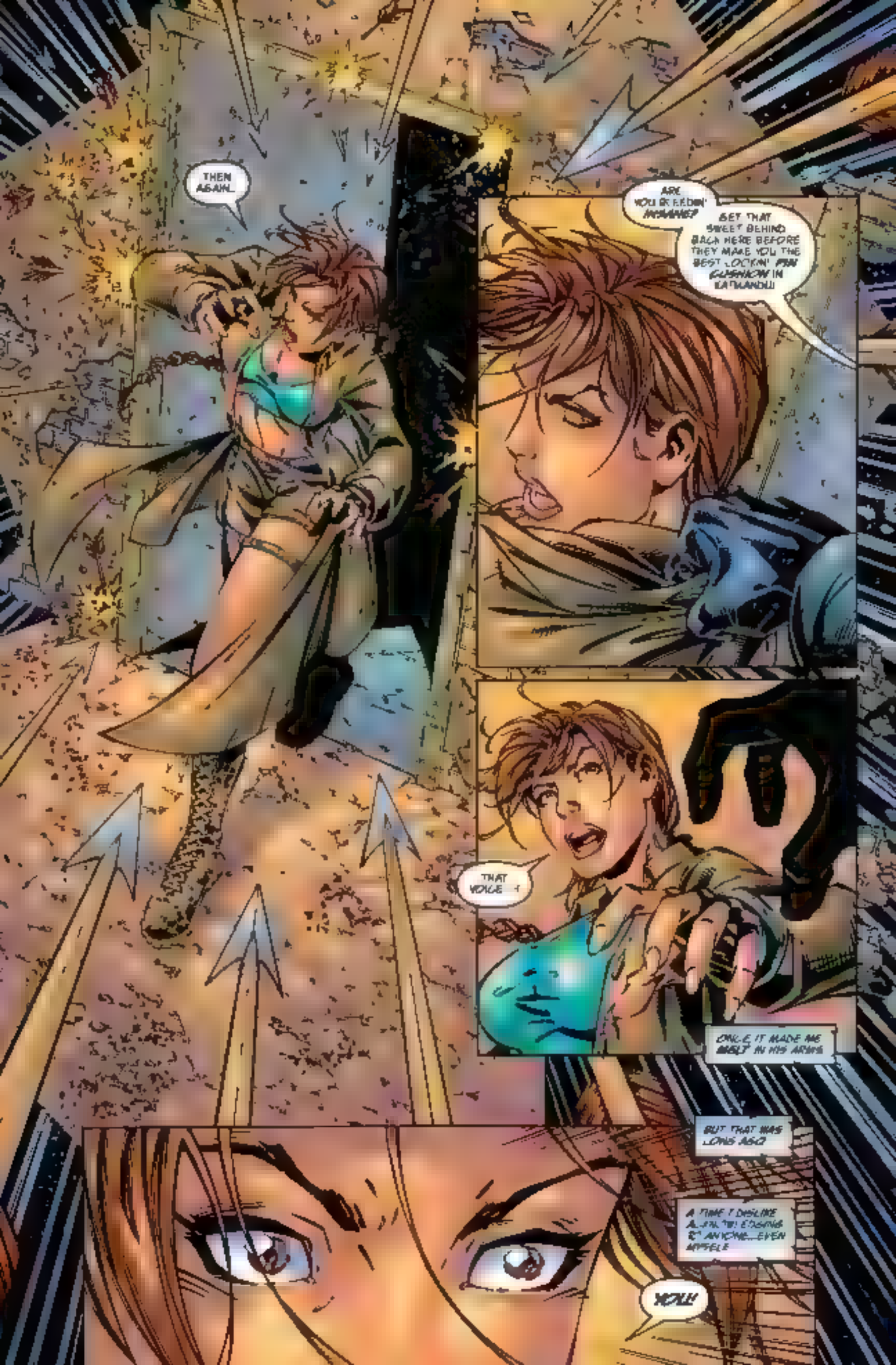
COVER PENCILS
ANDY PARK

COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

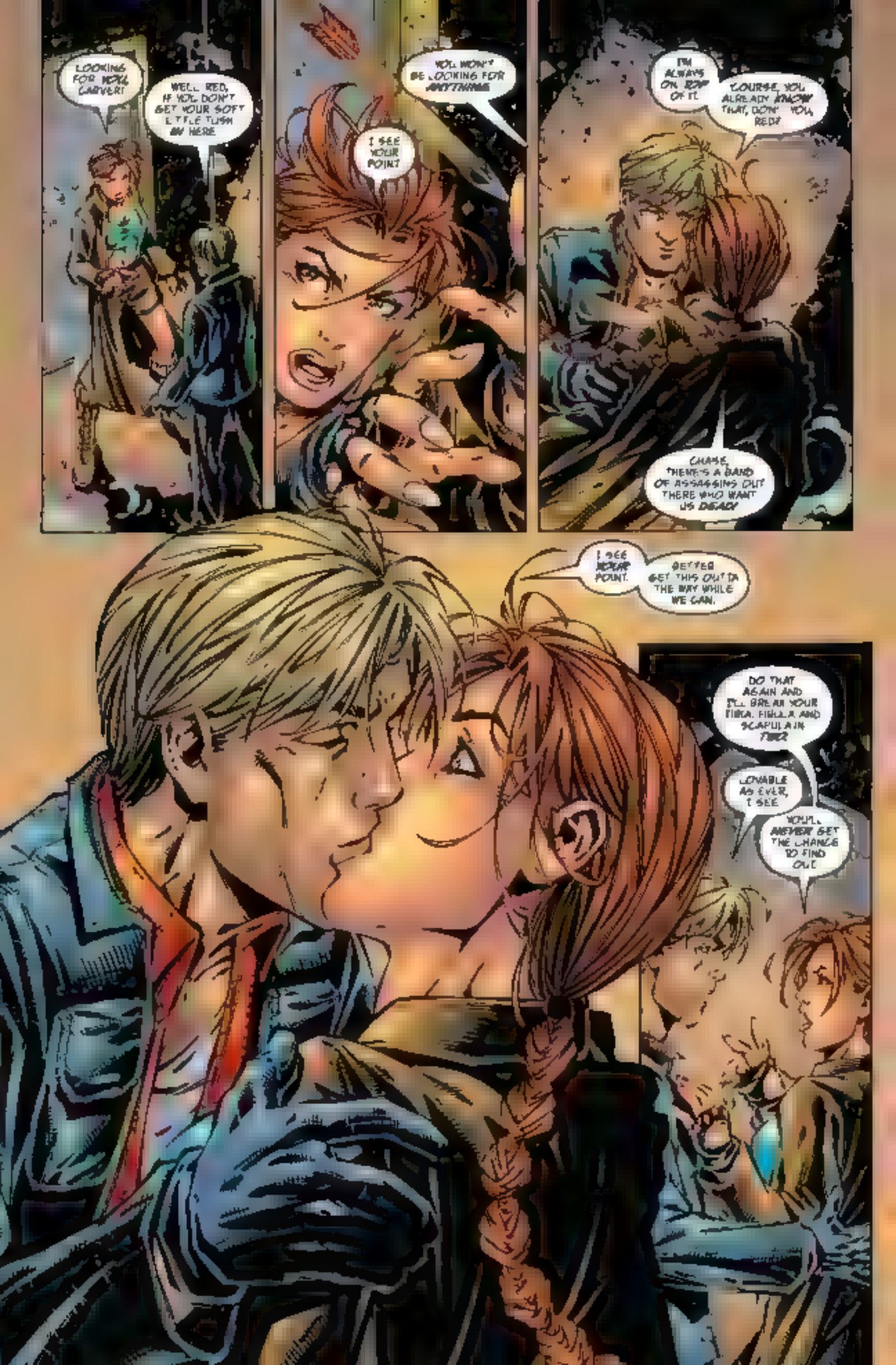
COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

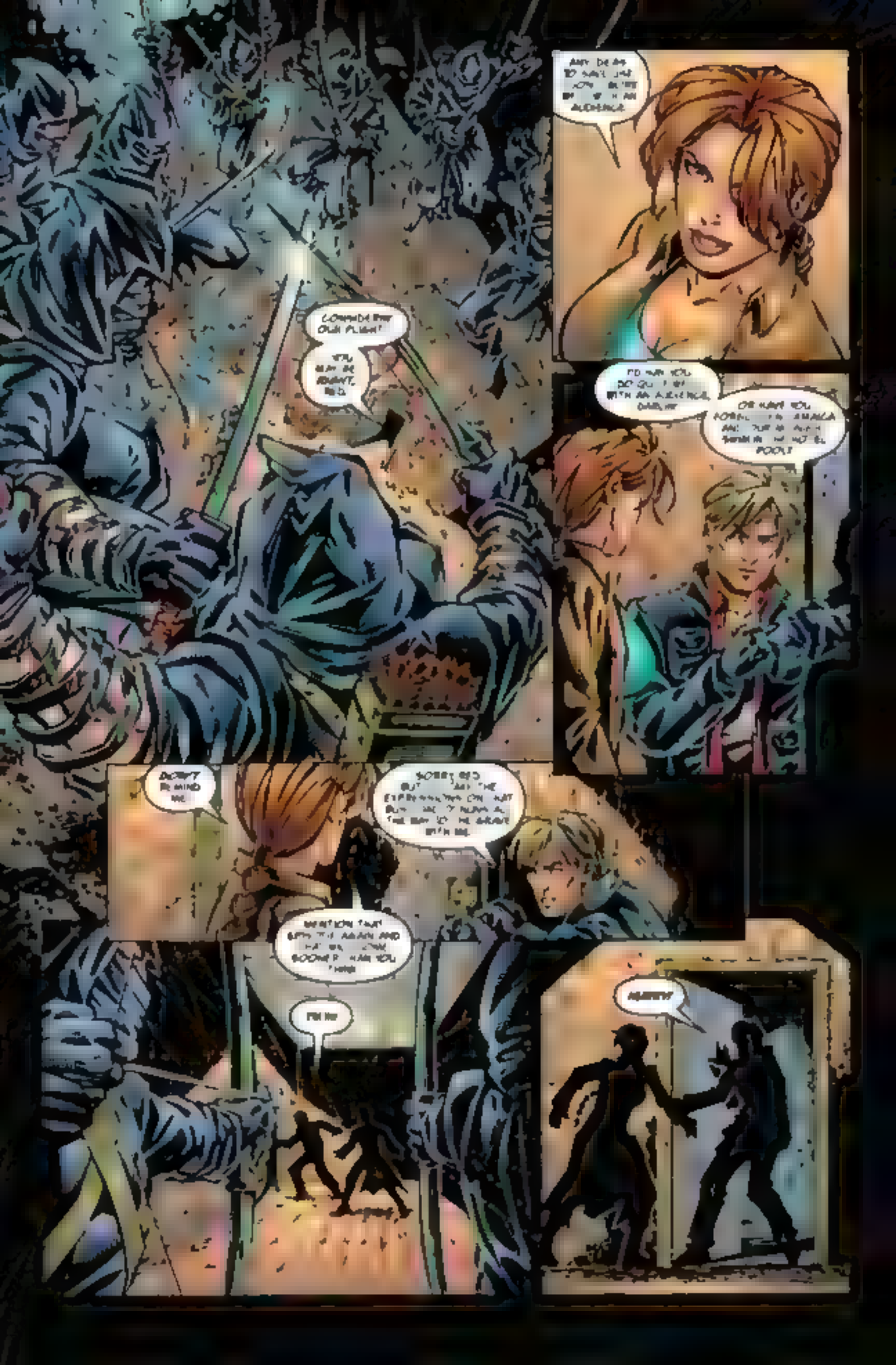
I'M LARA CROFT. IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING, I GO AFTER IT.
AS MY AIDE, CONFIDANTE AND SOUNDING BOARD, HARTFORD COMPTON HAS SAVED MY LIFE MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.
PARIS D'ARSELINE IS PAYING US TO RETRIEVE THE FABLED MEDUSA MASK, ONE OF THE GREATEST LOST TREASURES IN ALL THE WORLD.
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A RELATIVELY SAFE JOB.
INSTEAD, WE FOUND INTRIGUE, BETRAYAL AND DEATH.
ALL OF IT CULMINATING NOW, IN NEPAL.
HERE, IN A MURKY ALLEY WHERE SECRETS ARE OF GREATER WORTH THAN ANY NATION'S CURRENCY.
AN AMBUSH HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL.
COMPTON IS DOWN AND IT LOOKS FATAL.
MS?
I'M ABOUT TWO SECONDS BEHIND HIM.
NOT ANOTHER WORD, DARLIN'.
NOT ANOTHER BLESSED WORD.

FORTUNATELY --
TWO SECONDS IS ALL I NEED.
COMPTON!
HANG ON! I'M ON MY WAY!


THEN AGAIN...
ARE YOU BREEDIN' INSANE?
BET THAT SWEET BEHIND BACK HERE BEFORE THEY MAKE YOU THE BEST LOOKIN' PIN CUSHION IN KATMANDU!
THAT VOICE...
ONCE IT MADE ME MELT IN HIS ARMS
BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO
A TIME I DESIRE ABOVE ALL TO FORGET
OF ANYONE...EVEN MYSELF
YOU!!

YEP IT'S ME, ALRIGHT, DARLIN!
CHASE CARVER, AT YOUR SERVICE.
SO?
WHAT'S A NICE LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU DOING IN A NASTY PLACE LIKE THIS?
CHASE CARVER.
THE MOST IRRESPONSIBLE, IRASCIBLE, ECCENTRICAL MAN EVER TO WALK THE EARTH.
AND ALSO THE ONLY PERSON ALIVE REMOTELY EQUAL TO ME WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING THE UNFINDABLE.


LOOKING FOR MORE CARVER!
WELL RED, IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR SOFT LITTLE TUSH IN HERE
I SEE YOUR POINT
YOU WON'T BE LOOKING FOR ANYTHING
I'M ALWAYS ON TOP OF IT
COURSE, YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT, DON' YOU, RED?
CHASE, THERE'S A BAND OF ASSASSINS OUT THERE WHO WANT US DEAD!
I SEE YOUR POINT.
BETTER GET THIS OUT'A THE WAY WHILE WE CAN.
DO THAT AGAIN AND I'LL BREAK YOUR FIBIA, FIBULA AND SCAPULA IN TWO!
LOVABLE AS EVER, I SEE
YOU'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO FIND OUT


I'D HATE YOU TO DO SOMETHING WITH AN AUDIENCE, DARLIN'
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN I'M AMANDA AND THAT'S WHAT SHERMAN'S NOT EL POCO?
DON'T BE MIND ME!
SORRY, ED. BUT AMY THE EXPERIMENTATION CAN JUST BLOW. SHE'S ALWAYS ALL TIME BUM TO BE AROUND WITH ME.
MENTION THAT WITH THE ARMAN AND HE WILL COME BOOKIN' HOME YOU THINK
I'M IN!
HURRY!

RIGHT BEHIND YOU
WON'T TAKE LONG FOR 'EM TO BREAK T DOWN. WE'RE GONNA NEED A PLAN B
THERE WERE ONLY EN OR SO WHY NOT FIGHT OUR WAY OUT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS? A COMIC BOOK?
RED, THOSE BLOKES ARE ARMED TO THE TEETH AND LOOKING TO KILL AND YOU REMEMBER WHY NOT TO.
"RUN AWAY, RUN AWAY AND LIVE TO LOVE ANOTHER DAY."
AH. YOU DO REMEMBER
ALL TOO WELL, MR CARVER.

LET'S SLIP OUT THE SIDE DOOR BEFORE THEY FIND THEIR WAY --
IN?
NO MORE RUNNING, CHASE.
OUR ONLY CHANCE
IS BEATING THEM HEAD ON!
BET THAT MAKES YOUR DAY!
YOU ALWAYS DID RELISH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT SOME POOR SOD IN HIS PLACE!

IS THAT HOW YOU THINK OF ME?
A GOLD BITCH JUST LOOKING TO PUT A MAN IN HIS PLACE?
YOUR WORDS.
NOT MINE.
HEY!
DO YOU SMELL GAS?
WORSE.
I SMELL SMOKE.
THOSE BARRELS HAVE TO BE FILLED WITH SOMEKIND OF LACQUER!
LET'S PUT THAT FIRE OUT!!
NO, CLASS!
AND WHERE THERE'S SMOKE...

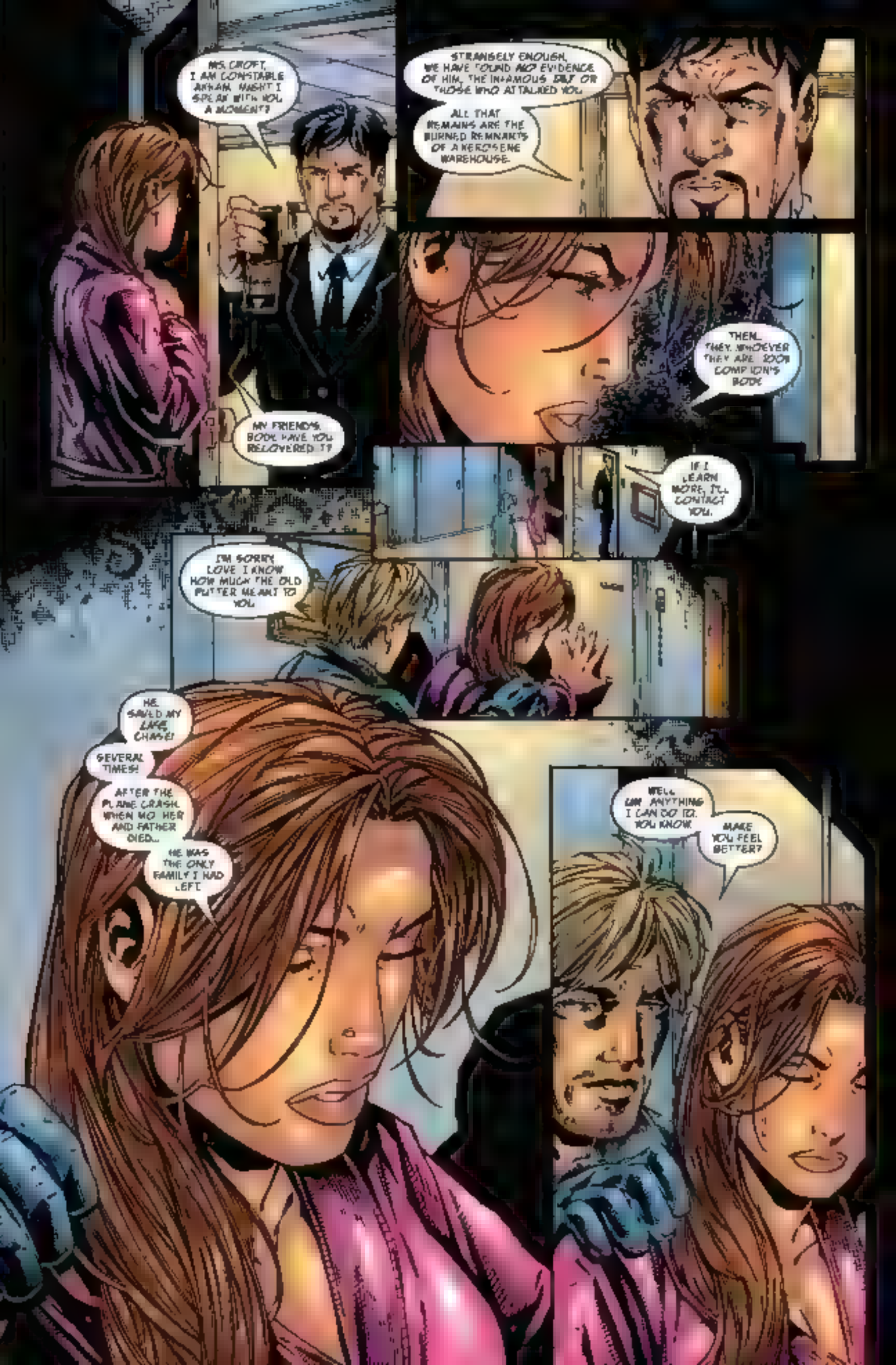
B-DAMMM
WHY?
THAT'S
OH.
ANY OTHER BRIGHT IDEAS?
UM. NO.
THE COMMITTEE'S TAKEN A VOTE AND IS IN UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THE NEXT CALL IS YOURS!

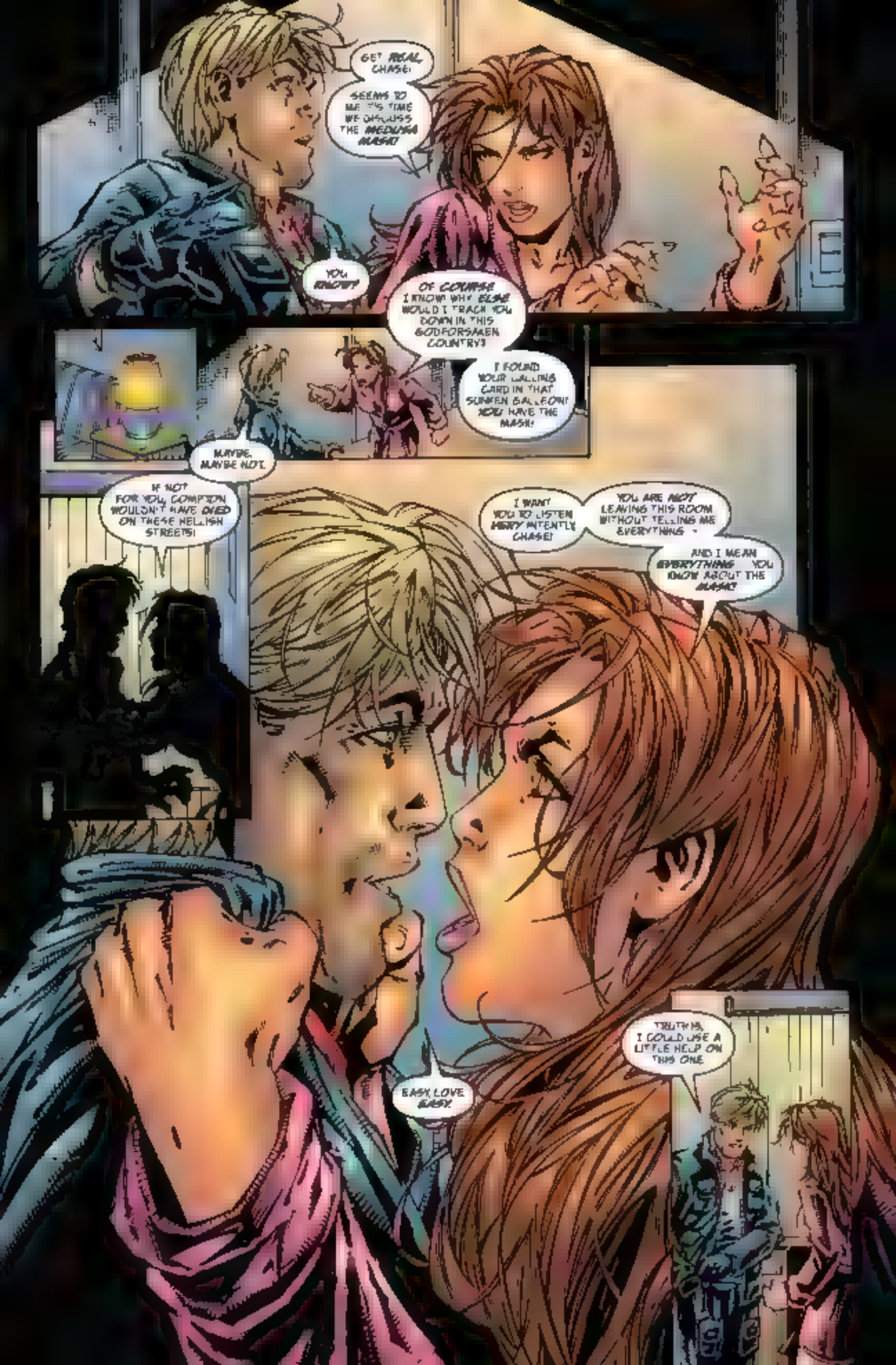
UPSTAIRS! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!
I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SURVIVOR
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LADIES FIRST?
THE FIRES ALREADY SPREAD UP HERE!
HEAD FOR THE FIRE ESCAPE!
ISN'T THAT A BIT OBVIOUS?
WOOPS
THE COMMITTEE JUST PUT ME BACK IN CHARGE! THIS WAY!

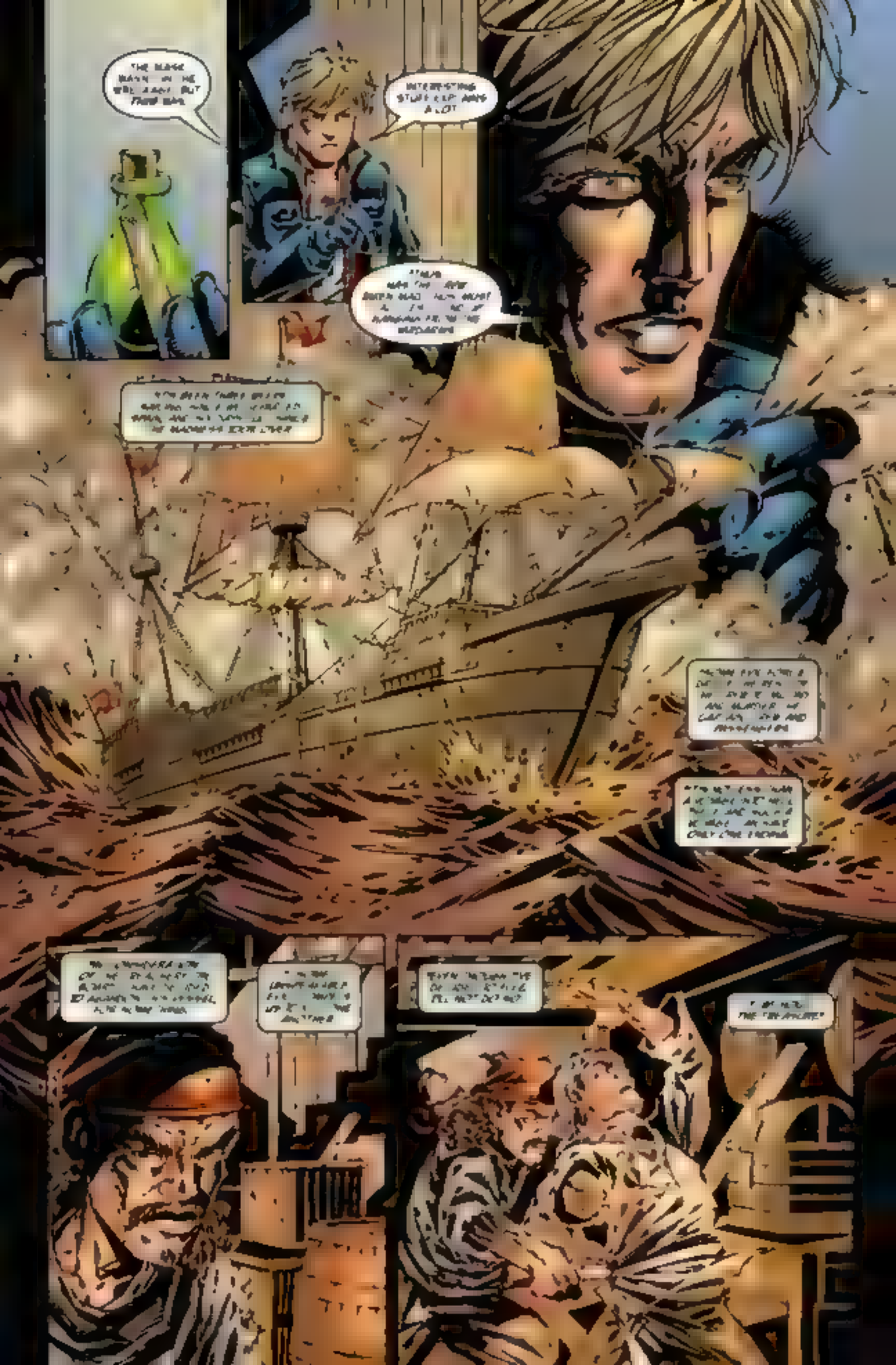
THERE'S OUR TICKET OUT OF HERE, RED!
ALL WE GOTTA DO IS RIDE THIS TO THE OTHER SIDE AND WE'RE HOME FREE!
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MARBLES?
MAYBE SO.
BUT IT ALWAYS WORKS IN THE MOVIES.
AND I'D RATHER DIE FROM A FALL THAN SEARED LUNGS!
HANG ON!
YOU BETTER NOT BE CALLING ME RUTH!
CHANGE!
WHAT?
THAT NEVER HAPPENS IN THE MOVIES!
BLOODY HELL YOU'RE TOO HEAVY!

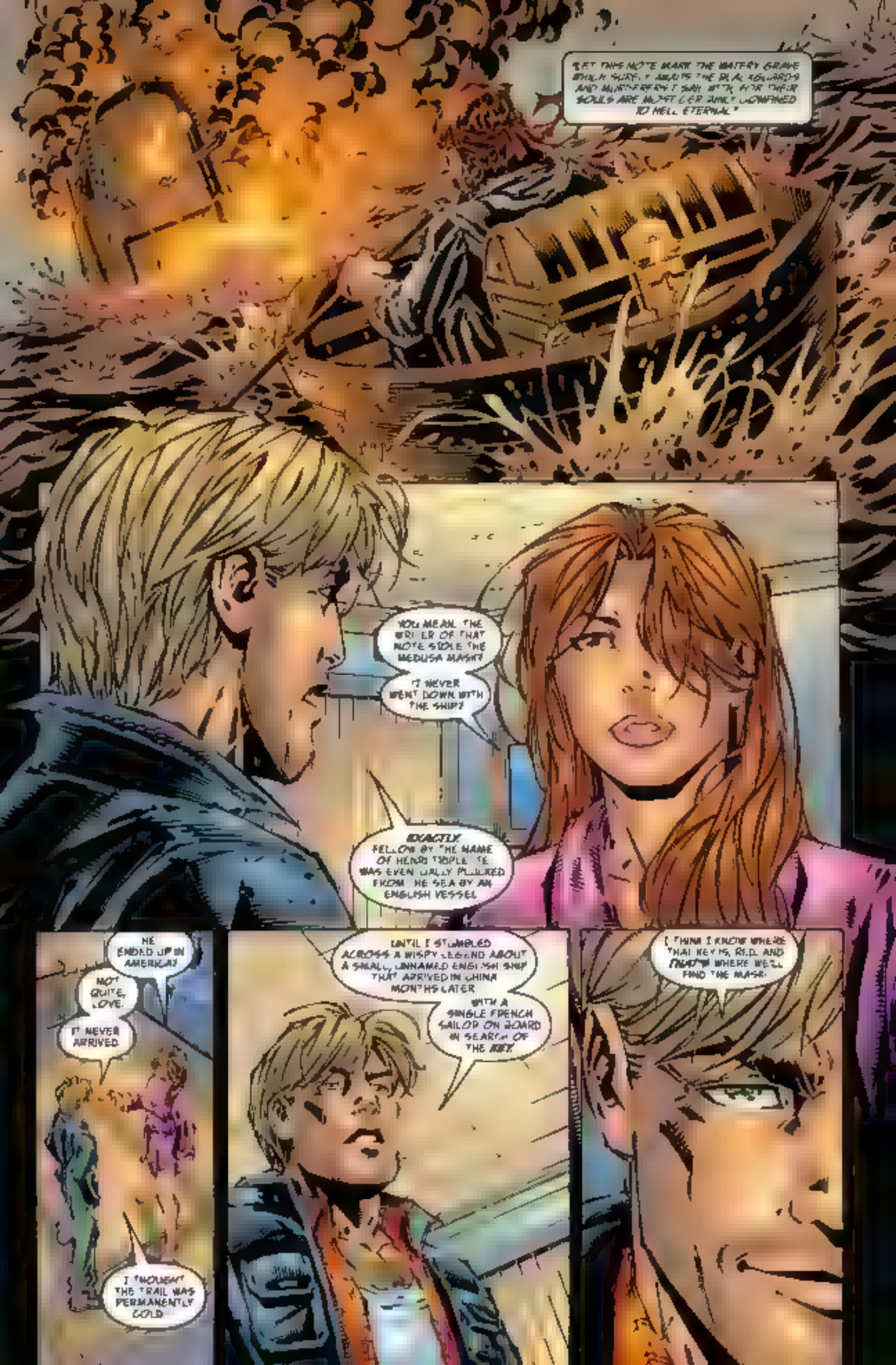
WHEN I WAS LITTLE I WANTED TO BE A BALLERINA
SINCE MY FATHER WAS TOTALLY INDULGENT, I HAD PLENTY OF DANCE AND GYMNASTIC LESSONS
LUCKY FOR ME
OH NO
I DIDN'T REALIZE CHASE BROUGHT HE HEART OF HIS FAMILY TO TOWN

AW, C'MON, RED! I SAID I WAS SORRY!
YOUR APOLOGIES WERE WORTHLESS IN THE PAST AND TIME HAS ALOFT INFLATED THEIR VALUE.
LARA, MY DEAR, YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY MEAN THAT!
THINK ABOUT IT, LOVE. THINK ABOUT WHAT WE MEANT TO ONE ANOTHER!
TERA.
TERA.
SCARLA.
KNOCK KNOCK


MS. CROFT, I AM CONSTABLE AKHAM. MIGHT I SPEAK WITH YOU A MOMENT?
MY FRIENDS. BODY. HAVE YOU RECOVERED IT?
STRANGELY ENOUGH, WE HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF HIM, THE INFAMOUS DAT OR THOSE WHO ATTACKED YOU.
ALL THAT REMAINS ARE THE BURNED REMNANTS OF A KEROSENE WAREHOUSE.
THEN... THEY. WHOEVER THEY ARE. ZOOM COMPTON'S BODY.
IF I LEARN MORE, I'LL CONTACT YOU.
I'M SORRY LOVE. I KNOW HOW MUCH THE OLD PUTTER MEANT TO YOU.
HE SAVED MY LAKE CHASE!
SEVERAL TIMES!
AFTER THE PLANE CRASH. WHEN MOTHER AND FATHER DIED...
HE WAS THE ONLY FAMILY I HAD LEFT.
WELL, UM. ANYTHING I CAN DO TO. YOU KNOW.
MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?


GET REAL CHASE!
SEEMS TO ME IT'S TIME WE DISCUSS THE MEDUSA MASK!
YOU KNOW?
OF COURSE I KNOW! WHY ELSE WOULD I TRACK YOU DOWN IN THIS GODFORSAKEN COUNTRY?
I FOUND YOUR CALLING CARD IN THAT SUNKEN GALLEON! YOU HAVE THE MASK!
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.
IF NOT FOR YOU, COMPTON WOULDN'T HAVE DIED ON THESE HELLISH STREETS!
I WANT YOU TO LISTEN VERY INTENTLY CHASE!
YOU ARE NOT LEAVING THIS ROOM WITHOUT TELLING ME EVERYTHING -
AND I MEAN EVERYTHING - YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MASK!
EASY, LOVE. EASY.
TRUTH IS, I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP ON THIS ONE.





"LET THIS NOTE MARK THE WATERY GRAVE WHICH SURELY AWAITS THE BLACKGUARDS AND MURDERERS I SAIL WITH, FOR THEIR SOULS ARE MOST CERTAINLY CONFINED TO HELL ETERNAL."

YOU MEAN, THE WRITER OF THAT NOTE STOLE THE MEDUSA MASK?

IT NEVER WENT DOWN WITH THE SHIP?

EXACTLY. FELLOW BY THE NAME OF HENRI TRIPLETTE WAS EVENTUALLY PLUCKED FROM THE SEA BY AN ENGLISH VESSEL

HE ENDED UP IN AMERICA?

NOT QUITE, LOVE.

IT NEVER ARRIVED.

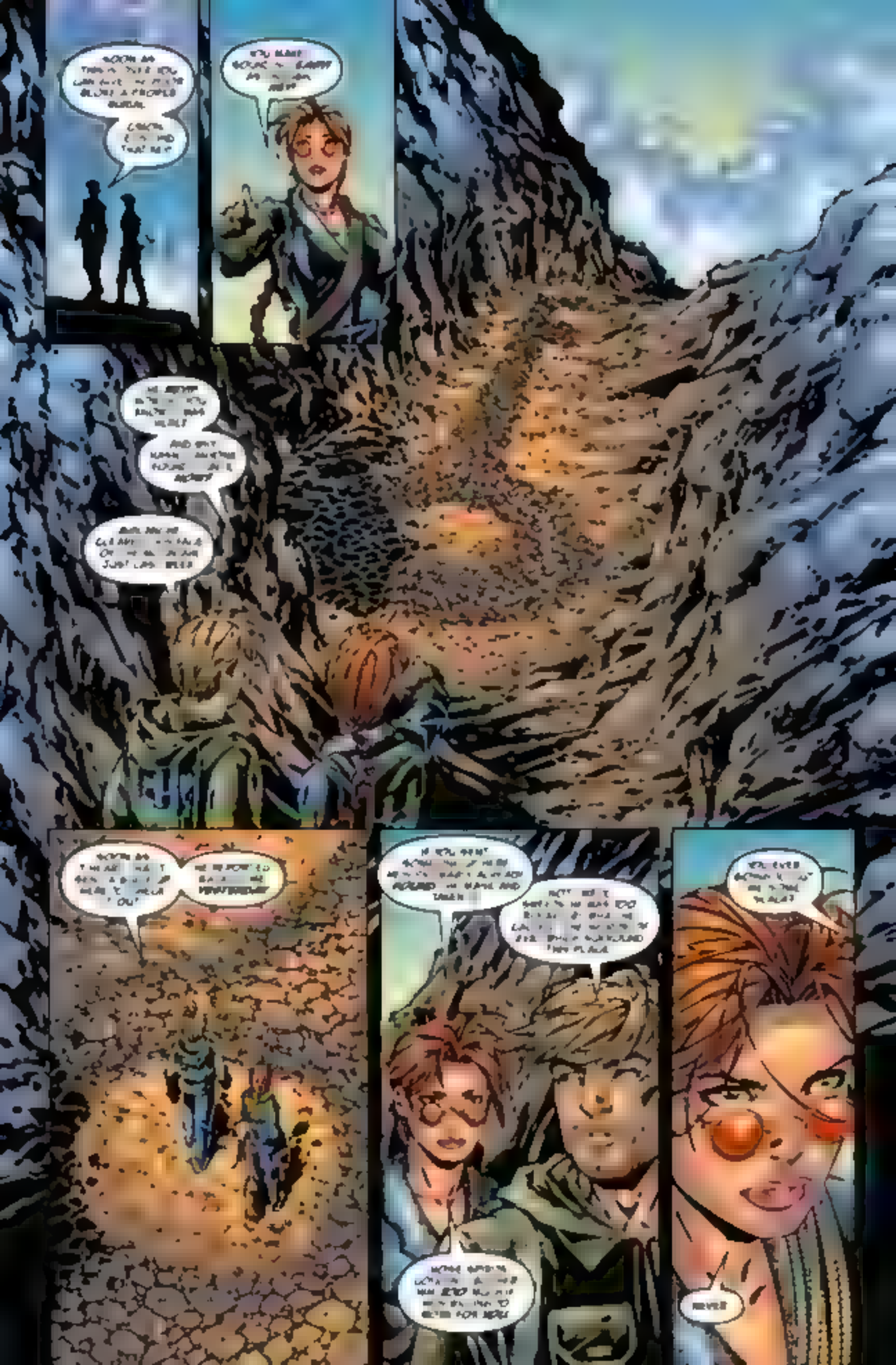
I THOUGHT THE TRAIL WAS PERMANENTLY COLD

UNTIL I STUMBLED ACROSS A WISPY LEGEND ABOUT A SMALL, UNNAMED ENGLISH SHIP THAT ARRIVED IN CHINA MONTHS LATER

WITH A SINGLE FRENCH SAILOR ON BOARD IN SEARCH OF THE KEY.

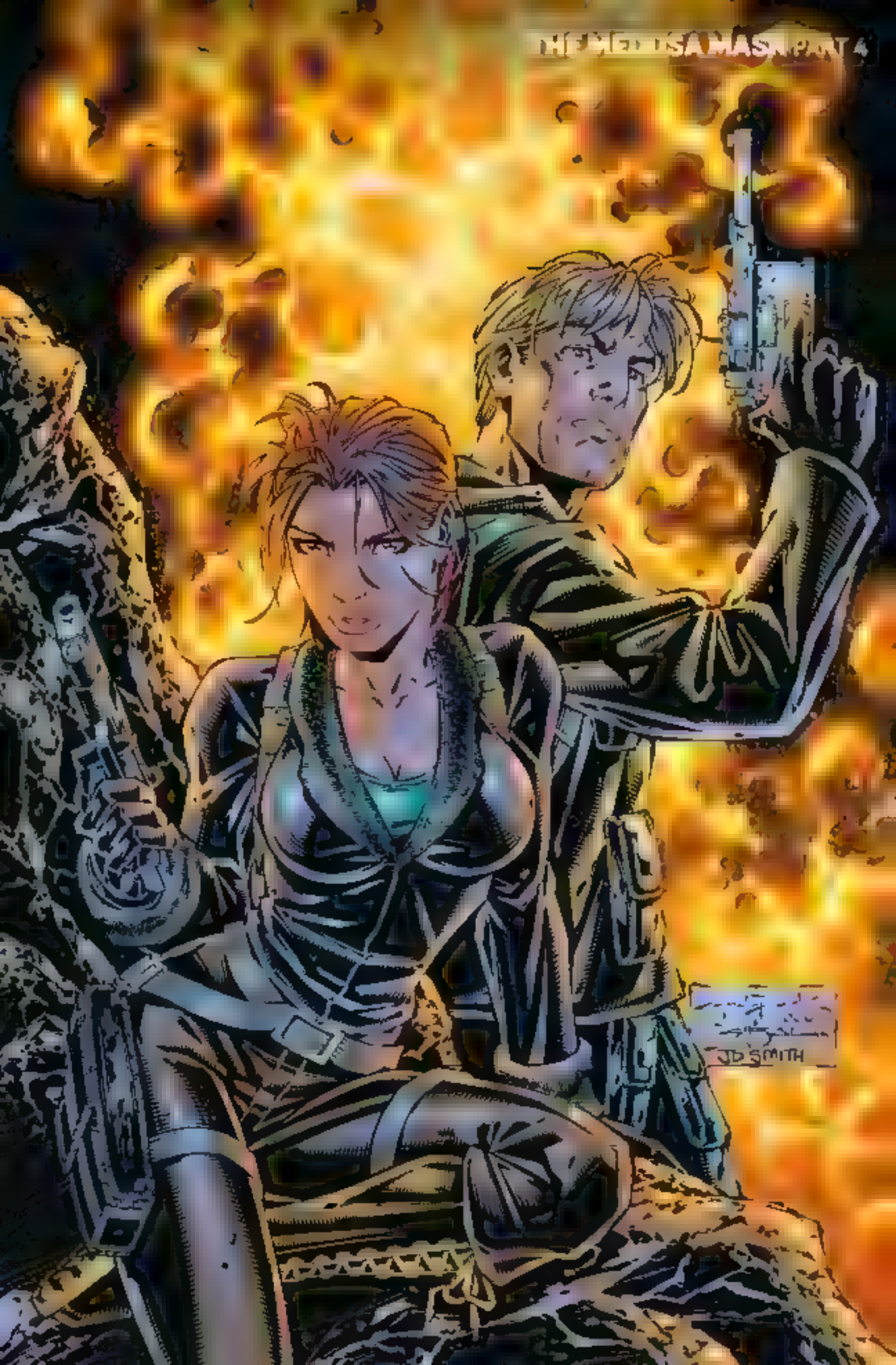
I THINK I KNOW WHERE THAT KEY IS, RED, AND THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND THE MASK.

ACCORDING TO CHASE, THE MYSTERIOUS "KEY" WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS A MARKER OF ROCKS THAT WAS BUILT AROUND 6000 A.D.
SUPPOSEDLY IT POINTED THE WAY TO ETERNAL PEACE, TRANQUILITY AND FREEDOM FROM THE EFFECTS OF EVIL.
IF ANY WESTERNERS HAVE EVER FOUND IT, IT'S A WELL KEPT SECRET, ALL OF WHICH PUTS OUR ODDS OF SUCCESS IN DOUBT.
IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT, RED?
RED?
WHY'RE YOU SO QUIET? ALTITUDE GETTING TO YOU?
NO, IT'S JUST... THE BEAUTY OF IT.
THE SOLITUDE.
IT MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT OTHER THINGS.



THESE MARKINGS, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE
LEFT BY BLOKES SHARPENING BLADES, MOST LIKE
EACH ONE SYMBOL CONSISTING OF THREE LINES?
AND THE SAILOR'S NAME. HENRI. TRIPLETTE?
HERE! PUSH!
YOU THINK -?
YES! IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION!
I DON'T KNOW, RED. THERE COULD BE ANYTHING BEHIND THIS!

ANYTHING
AT ALL


THE MEDUSA MASK PART 4
JD SMITH

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DENNIS HEISLER

COVER PENCILS
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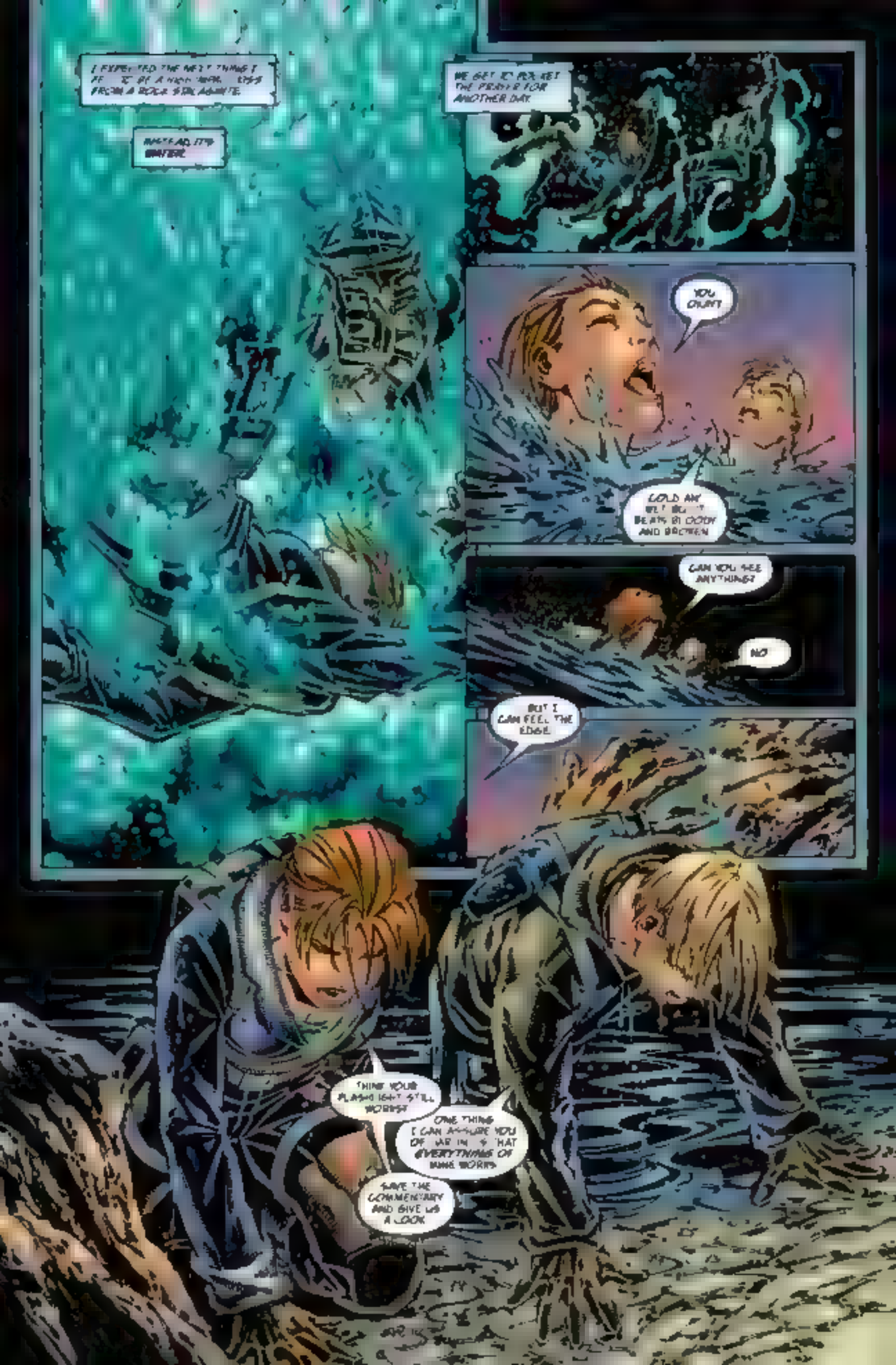
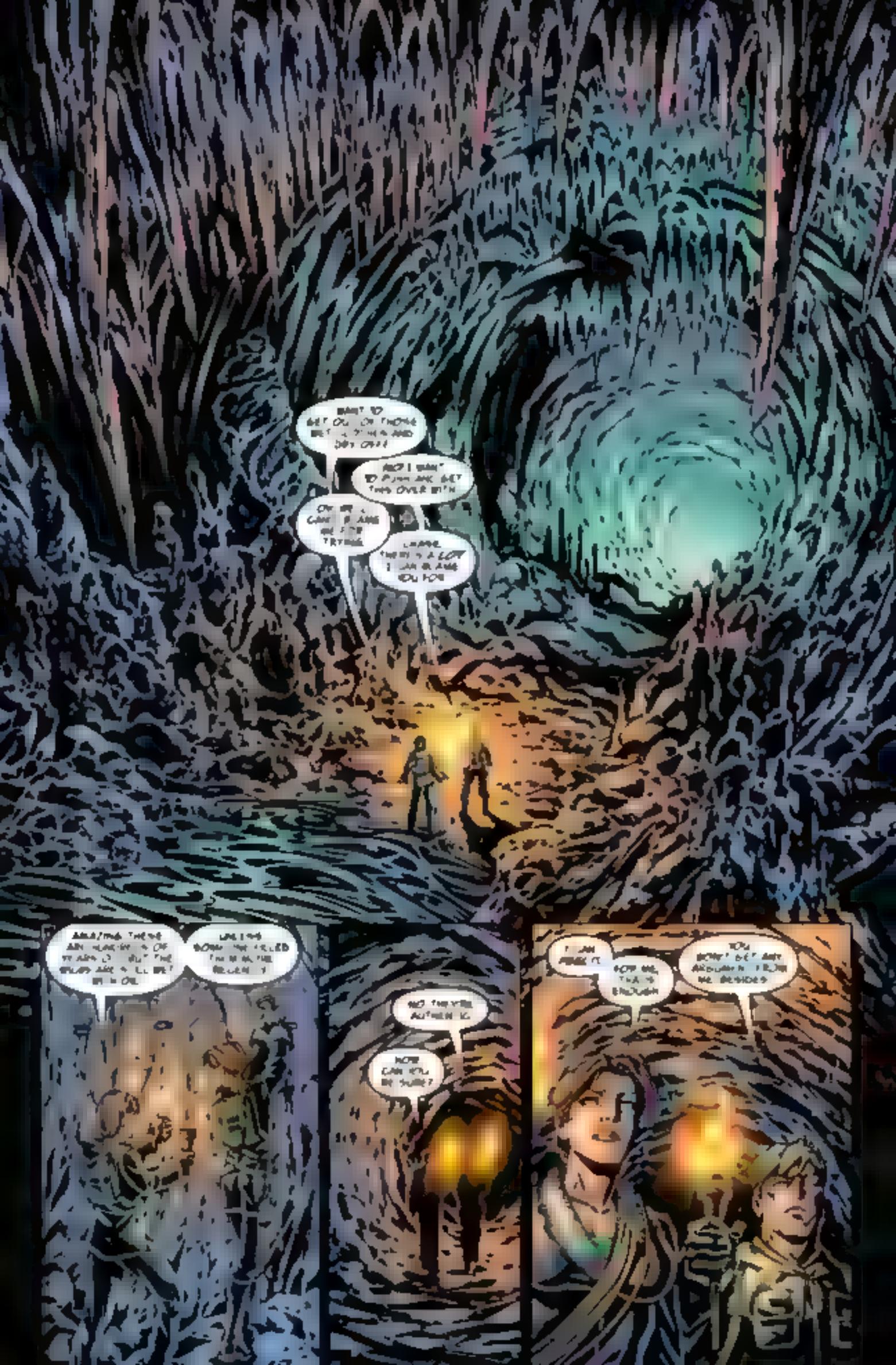
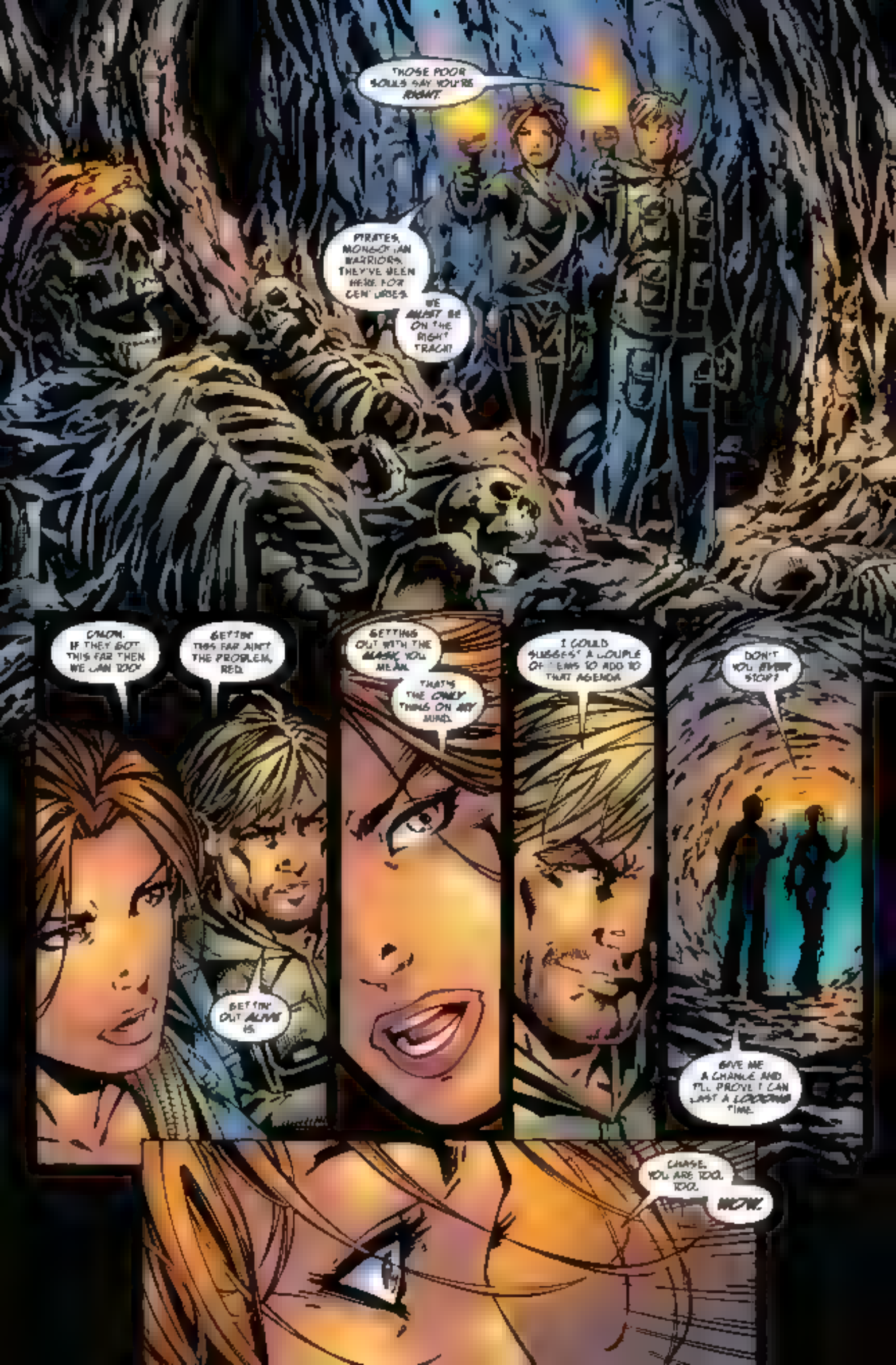
COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

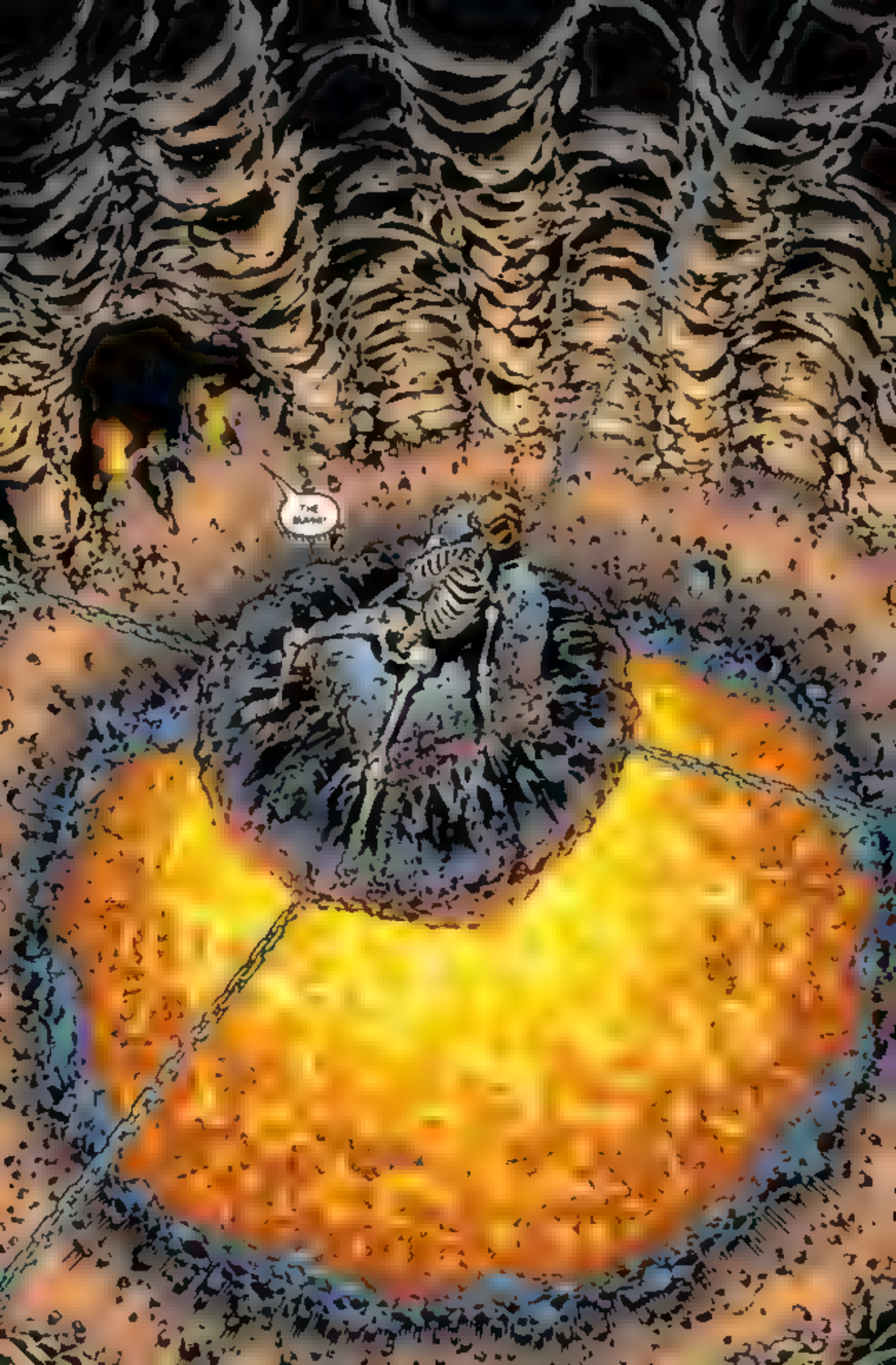
COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

HARTFORD COMPTON
MARIA ARSEINE


I EXPECTED THE NEXT THING I
FROM A ROCK STALAGMITE.
INSTEAD, IT'S WATER.
WE GET TO POCKET THE PRAYER FOR ANOTHER DAY.
YOU OKAY?
COLD AN' WET BUT IT BEATS BLOODY AND BROKEN
CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?
NO
BUT I CAN FEEL THE EDGE.
THINK YOUR FLASHLIGHT STILL WORKS?
ONE THING I CAN ASSURE YOU OF VAR IN IS THAT EVERYTHING OF MINE WORKS
SAVE THE COMMENTARY AND GIVE US A LOOK

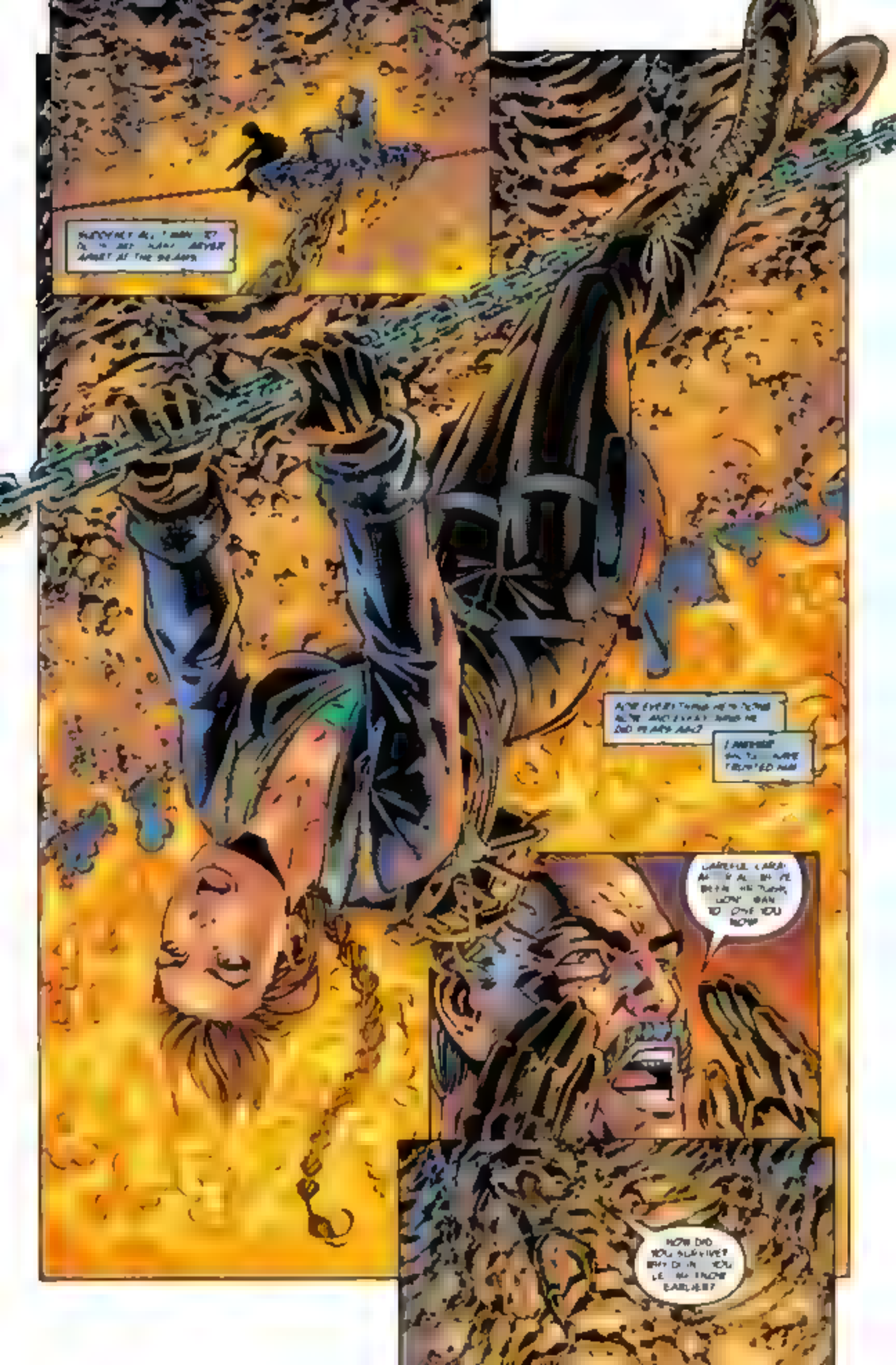

WANT TO GET OUT OF THOSE WET CLOTHES AND DRY OFF?
NO! I WANT TO PUSH AND GET THIS OVER WITH
OH WELL, CAN'T BLAME ME FOR TRYING
CHASE, THERE'S A LOT I CAN BLAME YOU FOR
AMAZING THESE ARE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD BUT THE WILDS ARE STILL WET WITH OIL
UNLESS SOMEONE FILLED THEM MORE RECENTLY
NO, THEY'RE AUTHENTIC
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
I CAN PROVE IT
FOR ME, THAT'S ENOUGH
YOU WON'T GET ANY ARGUMENT FROM ME BESIDES


THOSE POOR SOULS SAY YOU'RE RIGHT.
PIRATES, MONGOLIAN WARRIORS. THEY'VE BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES.
WE MUST BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!
CHAOS. IF THEY GOT THIS FAR THEN WE CAN TOO!
GETTIN' THIS FAR AIN'T THE PROBLEM, RED.
GETTIN' OUT ALIVE IS.
GETTING OUT WITH THE MASK, YOU MEAN.
THAT'S THE ONLY THING ON MY MIND.
I COULD SUGGEST A COUPLE OF ITEMS TO ADD TO THAT AGENDA.
DON'T YOU EVER STOP?
GIVE ME A CHANCE AND I'LL PROVE I CAN LAST A LOOOONG TIME.
CHAOS. YOU ARE TOO. TOO.
WOW.

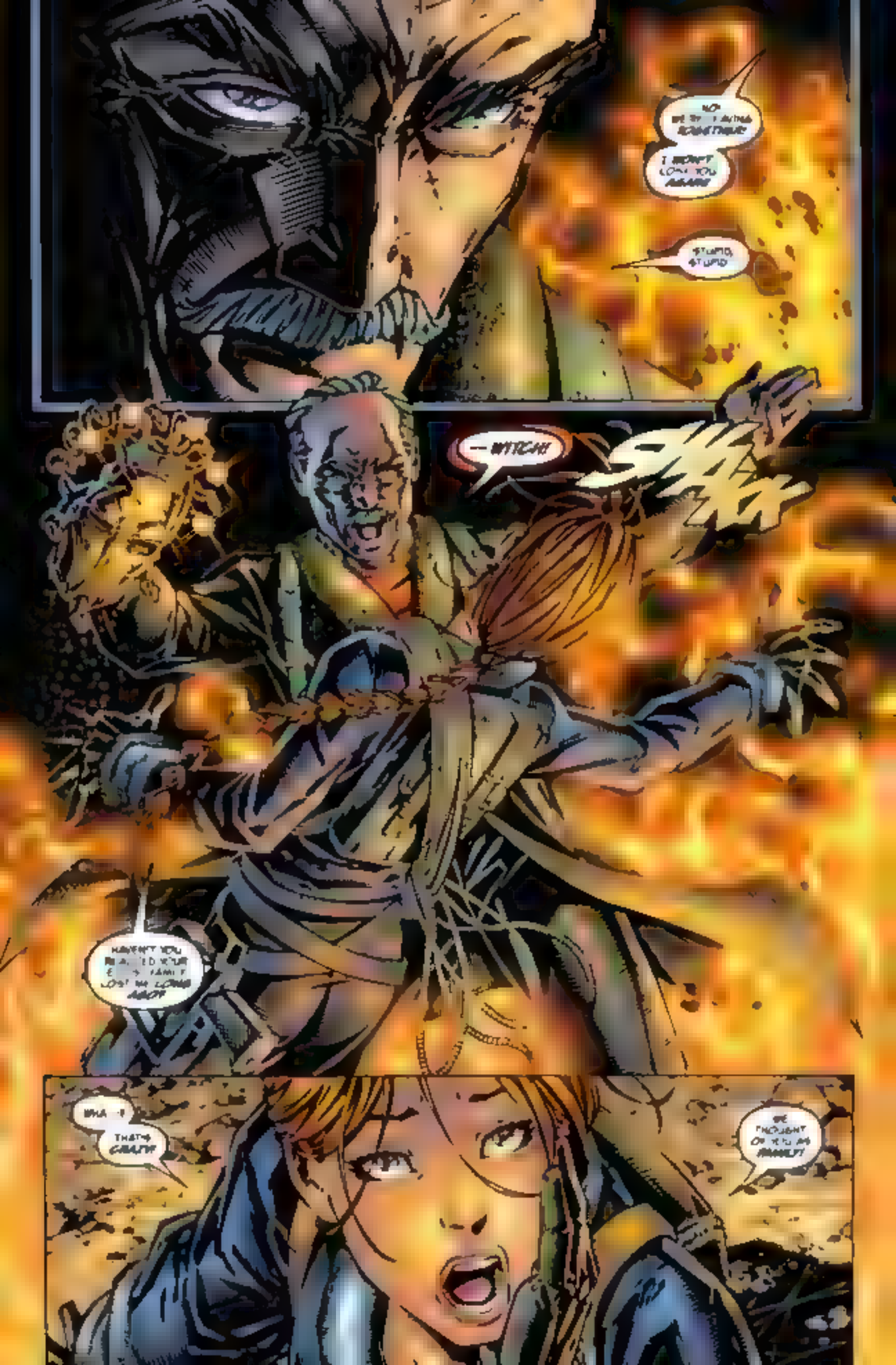

THE BLOOD!

NO WONDER THESE TORCHES STAYED WET
YOU CAN FEEL THE OIL IN THE AIR
MUST BE A STEADY SUPPLY OF IT TO KEEP THAT FIRE BURNING.
ME GLATED.
LARA!!!
THAT VOICE!!

COMPTON!
YOU'RE ALIVE?!
AND WE'LL BE TO PULL YOU OUT OF HARM'S WAY, JUST LIKE ALWAYS, DEAR GIRL!
HURRY ON DOWN! HIS BLOKE'S MEN ARE ON THE WAY!
CHASE HAS PEOPLE BONKING WITH HIM?
HE WAS USING ME!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!



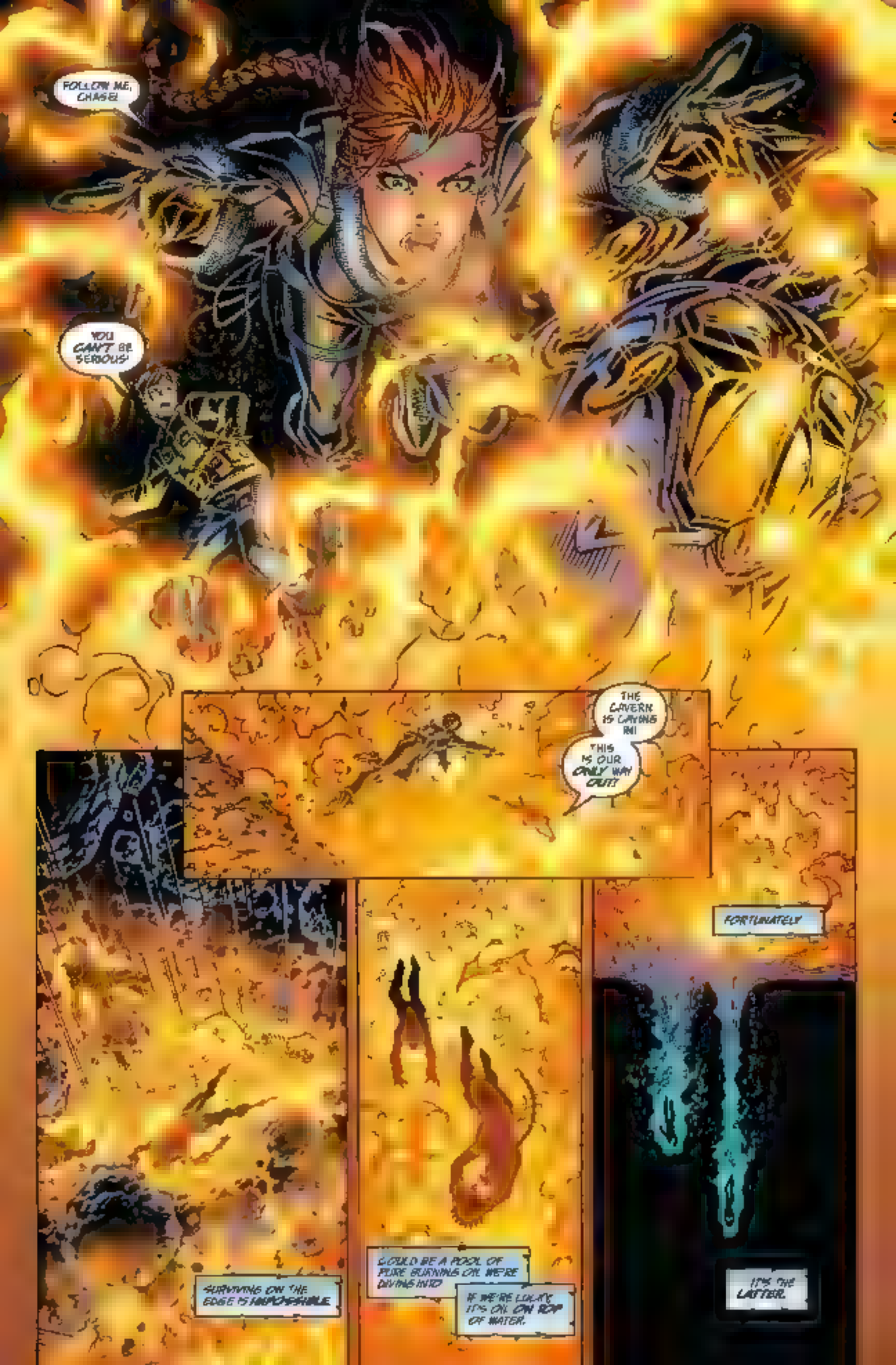
TAKES MORE THAN AN ARROW...EVEN
TOO LATE!
CARVER SEN... HEAT
GIVE ME


I WON'T LOSE YOU AGAIN!
STUPID, STUPID
—WITCH!
SHAKK
HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YOUR EVIL FAMILY LOST ME LONG AGO?
WHA...?
THAT'S CRAZY!
WE THOUGHT OF YOU AS FAMILY!

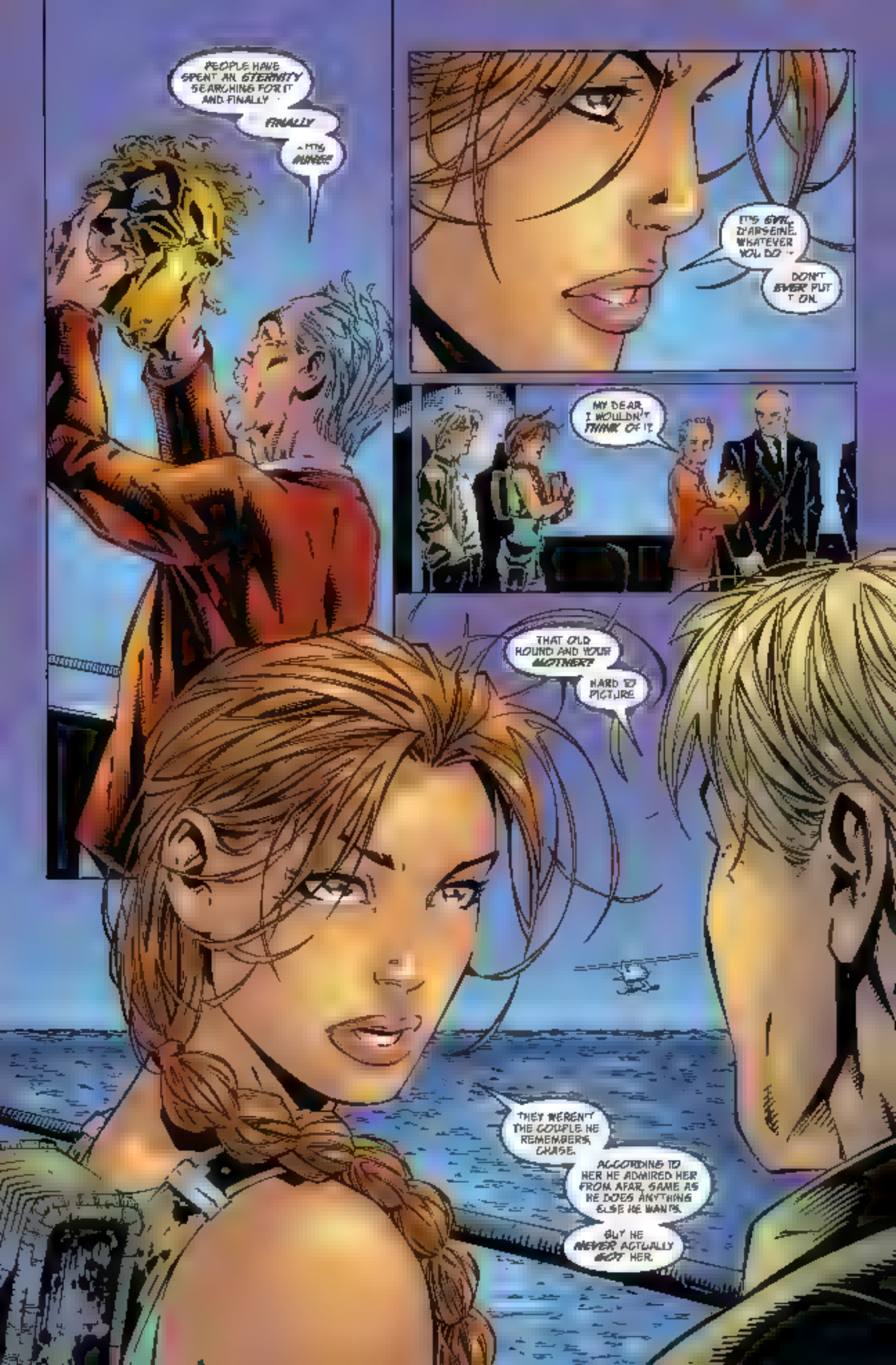
YOU ALL THOUGHT OF ME AS A SLAVE!
I WAS NOTHING TO YOU!
EVERYTHING I DESIRED WAS PUT ASIDE WHILE I SERVED YOU!
DID YOUR FATHER EVER GIVE ANY OF THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES HE DID HIS OTHER FRIENDS?
DID HE EVER GIVE ME THE SMALLEST CHANCE TO BETTER MY STATION IN LIFE?
NO!
I GOT TABLE SCRAPS! A PITTANCE OF A WAGE AND THE CHANCE TO LICK HIS BOOTS
EVEN AS I WAS EXPELLED TO TAKE A BULLET FOR HIM
YOUR POMPOUS FATHER WAS SHOCKED TOO, ONCE HE LEARNED I WAS EMBEZZLING FUNDS.
THAT'S WHY YOUR PLANE HAD TO GO DOWN!
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO... ANGRY!
BEING CHEATED WILL DO THAT TO A MAN.

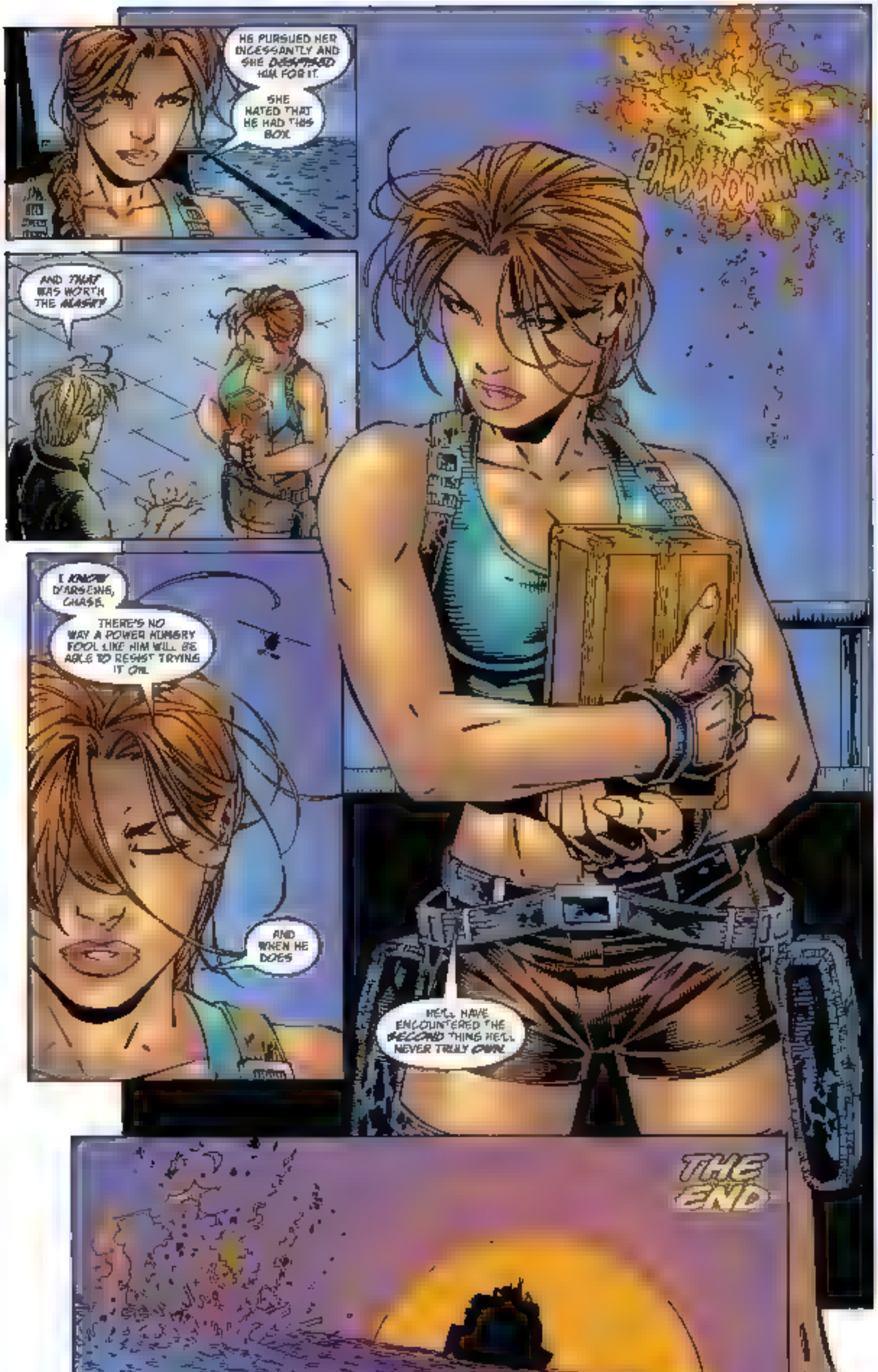
THAT PLANE CRASH WAS YOUR DOING?
OF COURSE IT WAS, YOU BRAT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU NEVER SUSPECTED!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DIE AS WELL AND THANKS TO THE FAKE WILL I HAD DRAWN UP
I WOULD HAVE INHERITED THE CROFT FORTUNE!
BUT YOU SURVIVED AND RUINED EVERYTHING!
MONSTER!
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET
NOW, LARA, YOU WILL DIE
THE CROFT FUNDS I WORKED SO HARD TO PROTECT WILL PASS ON TO ME
AND I EVEN GET THAT AS A CONSOLATION PRIZE!

DON'T! THE LEGEND SAYS THE POWER IS EVIL!
GUESS THAT MAKES 'EM A GOOD PAIR, RED.
YARRRGH!
YEE!
YEE!
YYYYEEEEEEESSSSS!


FOLLOW ME, CHASE!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
THE CAVERN IS CAVING IN!
THIS IS OUR ONLY WAY OUT!
FORTUNATELY
SURVIVING ON THE EDGE IS IMPOSSIBLE
COULD BE A POOL OF PURE BURNING OIL WE'RE DIVING INTO
IF WE'RE LUCKY IT'S OIL ON TOP OF WATER.
IT'S THE LATTER.

D'ARSENNE IS SO ANXIOUS TO GET HIS HANDS ON THE MASK THAT ONCE I CALLED HIM
HE DIDN'T WASTE A SECOND IN COMING.
FRANKLY, I'M EVERY BIT AS ANXIOUS AS HIM.
D'ARSENNE OWES ME.
I DON'T SEE THAT OVERBEARING COMPATRON FELLOW ABOUT, MS. CROFT.
AM I TO ASSUME YOU FINALLY GOT WISE AND DISCHARGED THE MAN?
MORE OR LESS.
I HAVE THE MASK, D'ARSENNE. YOU HAVE MY FEE?
NATURALLY.
HOW MUCH DID YOU NAIL HIM FOR, REDD? A COUPLE MIL?
STRANGELY ENOUGH, NO. MY MONEY DOESN'T INTEREST MS. CROFT.


PEOPLE HAVE SPENT AN ETERNITY SEARCHING FOR IT AND FINALLY
FINALLY
IT'S MINE!
IT'S EVIL, D'ARSEINE. WHATEVER YOU DO
DON'T EVER PUT IT ON.
MY DEAR, I WOULDN'T THINK OF IT.
THAT OLD HOUND AND YOUR MOTHER?
HARD TO PICTURE.
THEY WEREN'T THE COUPLE HE REMEMBERS, CHASE.
ACCORDING TO HER HE ADMIRED HER FROM AFAR, SAME AS HE DOES ANYTHING ELSE HE WANTS.
BUT HE NEVER ACTUALLY GOT HER.


HE PURSUED HER INCESSANTLY AND SHE DESPISED HIM FOR IT.
SHE HATED THAT HE HAD THIS BOX.
KABOOO

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
AND DENNIS HELLER

COVER PENCILS
ANDY PARK

COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

I'M LARA CROFT. IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING, I GO AFTER IT.
CHASE CARVER IS A TREASURE HUNTER. HE'S ALSO A ROGUE WHO CHEATS AT POKER AND LOVE. THOSE ARE HIS GOOD POINTS.
IF HE HAPPENS TO SHATTER HIS SPINE BY GETTING TOSSED FROM MY JEEP—
—IT'S A PUNISHMENT HE CERTAINLY DESERVES.
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', RED?
TRYIN' TA KILL US BOTH?

MUCH AS YOU PROBABLY DESERVE AN EARLY DEATH--

--I HAVE NO DESIRE TO JOIN YOU.

RELAX.

COULDJA AT LEAST MOVE AWAY FROM THE EDGE O' THE CLIFF?

VANESSA'S WAITING FOR US, CHASE. I DON'T WANT TO BE LATE.

YEAH!

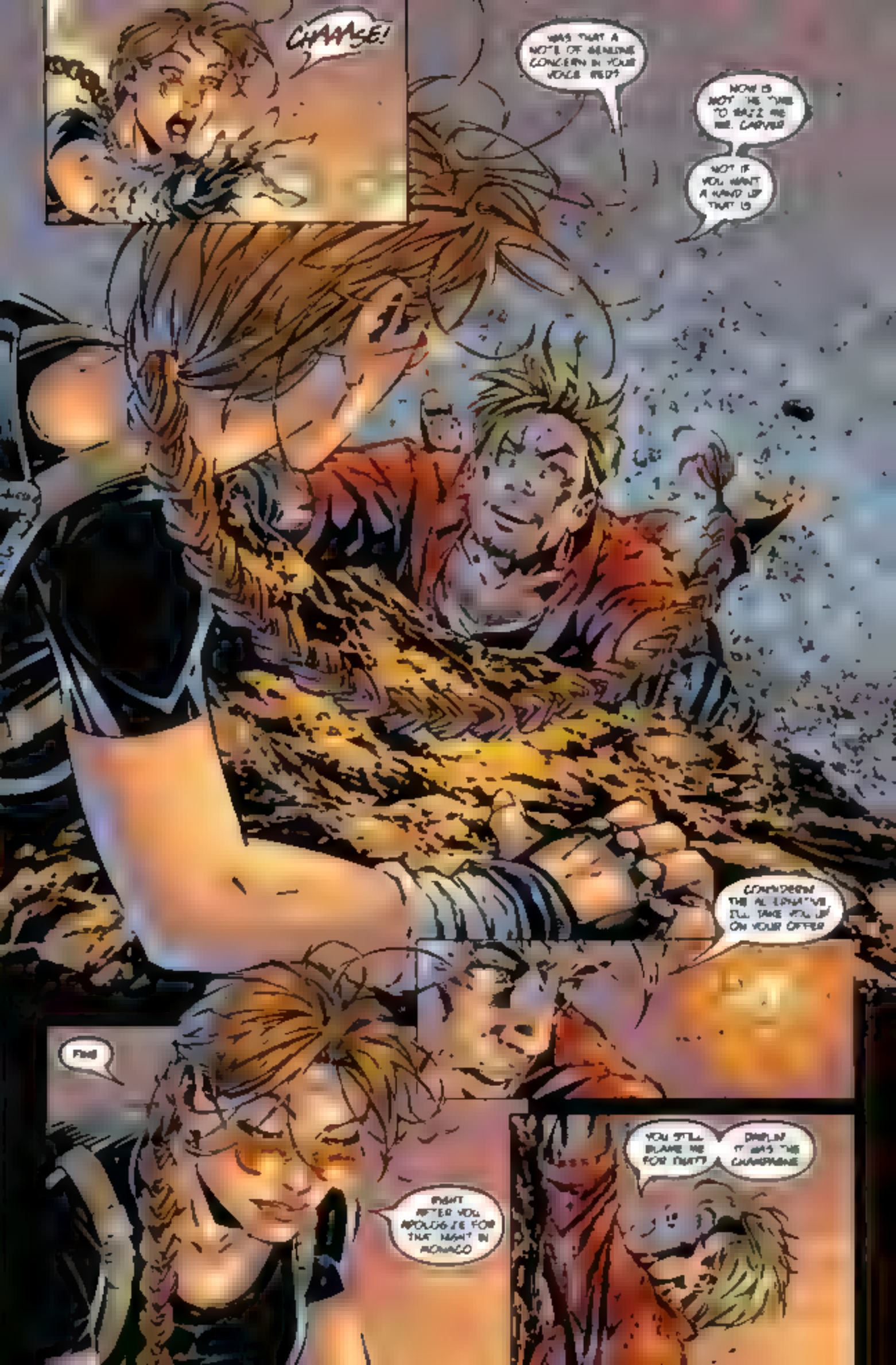
WELL, IF THAT UGLY SUCKER GETS HOLD OF US WE'RE GONNA BE REAL LATE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOU--OH!

HANG ON!

KRRRAAAAM!

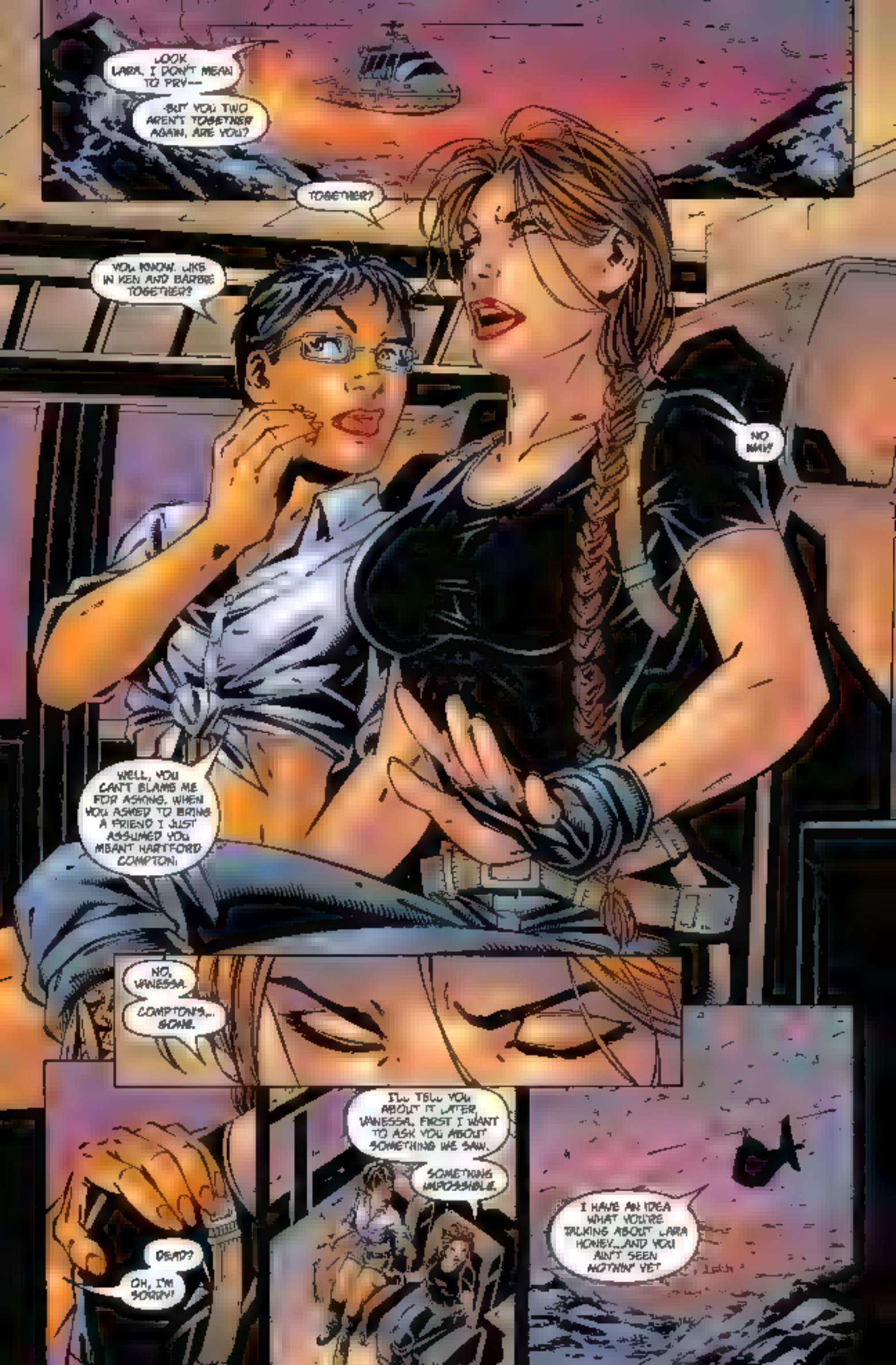
THIS WAY!
I'M LOSING IT!
VRMMMMM!


CHAAAGE!
WAS THAT A NOTE OF GENUINE CONCERN IN YOUR VOICE JUST NOW?
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BUZZ ME, CARVER
NOT IF YOU WANT A HAND UP THAT IS
CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVE I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER
FINE
RIGHT AFTER YOU APOLOGIZE FOR THAT NIGHT IN MONACO
YOU STILL BLAME ME FOR THAT?
DARLIN' IT WAS THE CHAMPAGNE

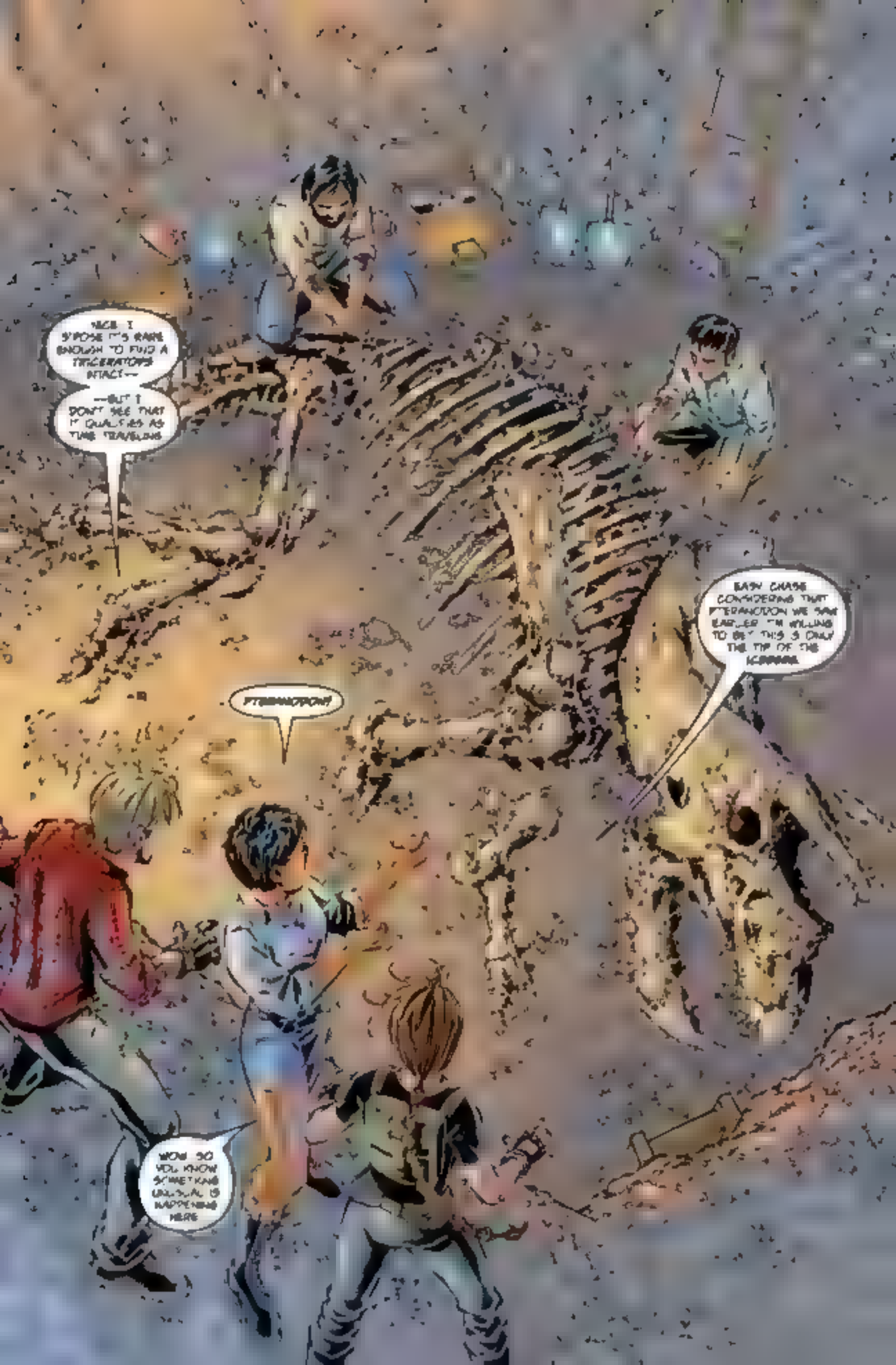
THAT'S NO EXCUSE
APOLOGIZE.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
I'M SORRY!
IS THAT ENOUGH OR WOULDJA LIKE A LITER O' BLOOD TOO?
YOU LOST $325,000 OF MY MONEY AT THE BLACKJACK TABLE, CHASE!
A LITER OF BLOOD WILL MAKE A SUITABLE DOWN PAYMENT ON THE DEBT.
I'LL PAY YOU BACK. I SWEAR IT!
ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT YOU KEEP BEATING ME TO THE BIG PAYDAYS!
WOULDJA CONSIDER LETTING ME PAY IT BACK IN A MORE...PHYSICAL WAY?
SO WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT?
WHY'RE YOU CHANGIN' THE SUBJECT DARLIN'?
OKAY. WE'LL IGNORE A RELIC OF THE PAST--A PTERANODON--WHILE YOU MAKE GOOFY JOKES!
I S'POSE IT DOES BEAR INVESTIGATION.

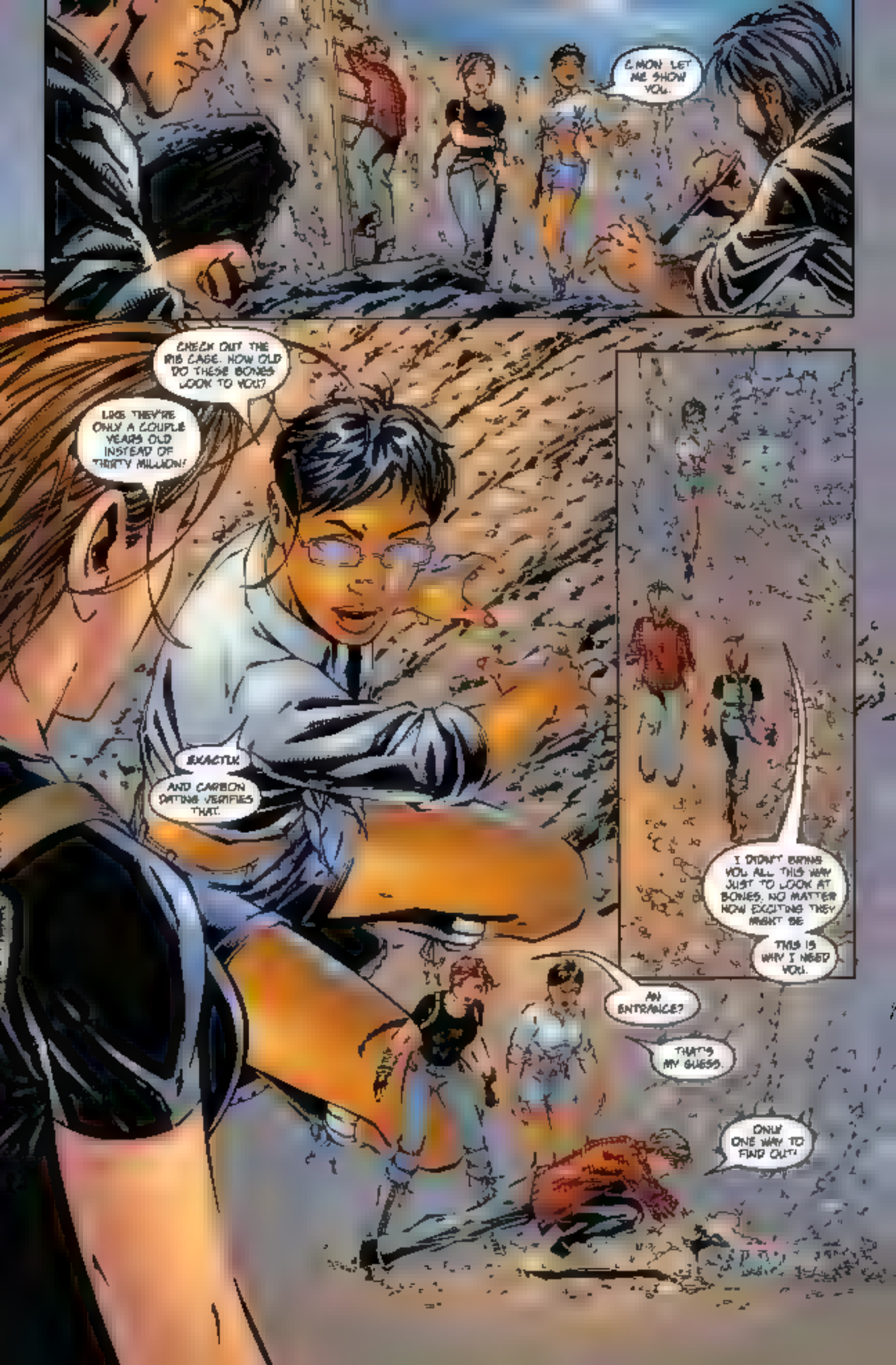
ONE HOUR AND THREE MILES LATER.
WHAT EVER IT WAS, IT'S LONG GONE NOW.
YOU THINK IT WAS AN ILLUSION? SOME KIND OF TRICK?
IF WE EVER GET TO VANESSA'S ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG SHE MIGHT HAVE AN ANSWER.
WHEN SHE INVITED ME OUT HERE SHE TOLD ME SHE'D FOUND SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
COULD IT HAVE BEEN A 50 MILLION-YEAR-OLD DINOSAUR?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT SHE WAS THE BEST STUDENT HARVARD EVER HAD.
IF SHE SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT...
--IT'S LIGHT.
THERE SHE IS NOW.

WHAT'S THE DEAL, LARA?
DID YOU WALK ALL THE WAY FROM ALBUQUERQUE?
LET'S JUST SAY WE RAN INTO AN UNEXPECTED CASE OF ROAD RAGE.
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
SAME HERE, ROOMIE. IT'S BEEN WAY TOO LONG.
WHO'S YOUR BEAU?
VANESSA FENWAY, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET CHASE CARVER.
THE CHASE CARVER?
THE ONE I'VE HEARD ABOUT FOR YEARS?
UM. IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT SOUNDS, REALLY.
MISTER, IF EVEN HALF THE STUFF LARA TOLD ME ABOUT YOU IS TRUE---
---I'M AMAZED YOU'RE STILL BREATHING.
C'MON. JUMP IN THE CHARIOT AND LET ME SHOW YOU WHY I INVITED YOU HERE.


LOOK LARA, I DON'T MEAN TO PRY--
-BUT YOU TWO AREN'T TOGETHER AGAIN, ARE YOU?
TOGETHER?
YOU KNOW, LIKE IN KEN AND BARBIE TOGETHER?
NO WAY!
WELL, YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR ASKING. WHEN YOU ASKED TO BRING A FRIEND I JUST ASSUMED YOU MEANT HARTFORD COMPTON.
NO, VANESSA. COMPTON'S... GONE.
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT LATER, VANESSA. FIRST I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT SOMETHING WE SAW.
SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE.
I HAVE AN IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT LARA HONEY...AND YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET
DEAD?
OH, I'M SORRY!

I FIRST BROUGHT MY STUDENTS HERE ABOUT A YEAR AGO.
PART OF MY JOB AS A TEACHER IS TO SHOW THEM WHAT A REAL ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG IS LIKE.
IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE COME ACROSS A COUPLE OF SPECIAL ITEMS.
WHOA. HELLOOOO.
HELLO, YOURSELF.
YOU KNOW...A SIMPLE FOSSIL OR TWO.
WHAT?!
EVERYTHING WAS NORMAL UNTIL LAST WEEK.
SUDDENLY, A SIMPLE DIG WITH RELATIVELY SIMPLE GOALS TURNED INTO SOMETHING FAR, FAR MORE.
IT'D BECOME A TRIP THROUGH TIME ITSELF


HUH. I S'POSE IT'S RARE ENOUGH TO FIND A TIMEERATOR'S INTACT—
—BUT I DON'T SEE THAT IT QUALIFIES AS TIME TRAVELING
EASY CHASE CONSIDERING THAT PTERANODON WE SAW EARLIER I'M WILLING TO BET THIS IS ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.
PTERANODON?
WOW. SO YOU KNOW SOMETHING UNUSUAL IS HAPPENING HERE


C'MON! LET ME SHOW YOU.
CHECK OUT THE RIB CAGE. HOW OLD DO THESE BONES LOOK TO YOU?
LIKE THEY'RE ONLY A COUPLE YEARS OLD INSTEAD OF THIRTY MILLION!
EXACTLY.
AND CARBON DATING VERIFIES THAT.
I DIDN'T BRING YOU ALL THIS WAY JUST TO LOOK AT BONES, NO MATTER HOW EXCITING THEY MIGHT BE.
THIS IS WHY I NEED YOU.
AN ENTRANCE?
THAT'S MY GUESS.
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

OLD BONES I CAN HANDLE.

A JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY IS YOUR SPECIALTY.

SO IT IS.

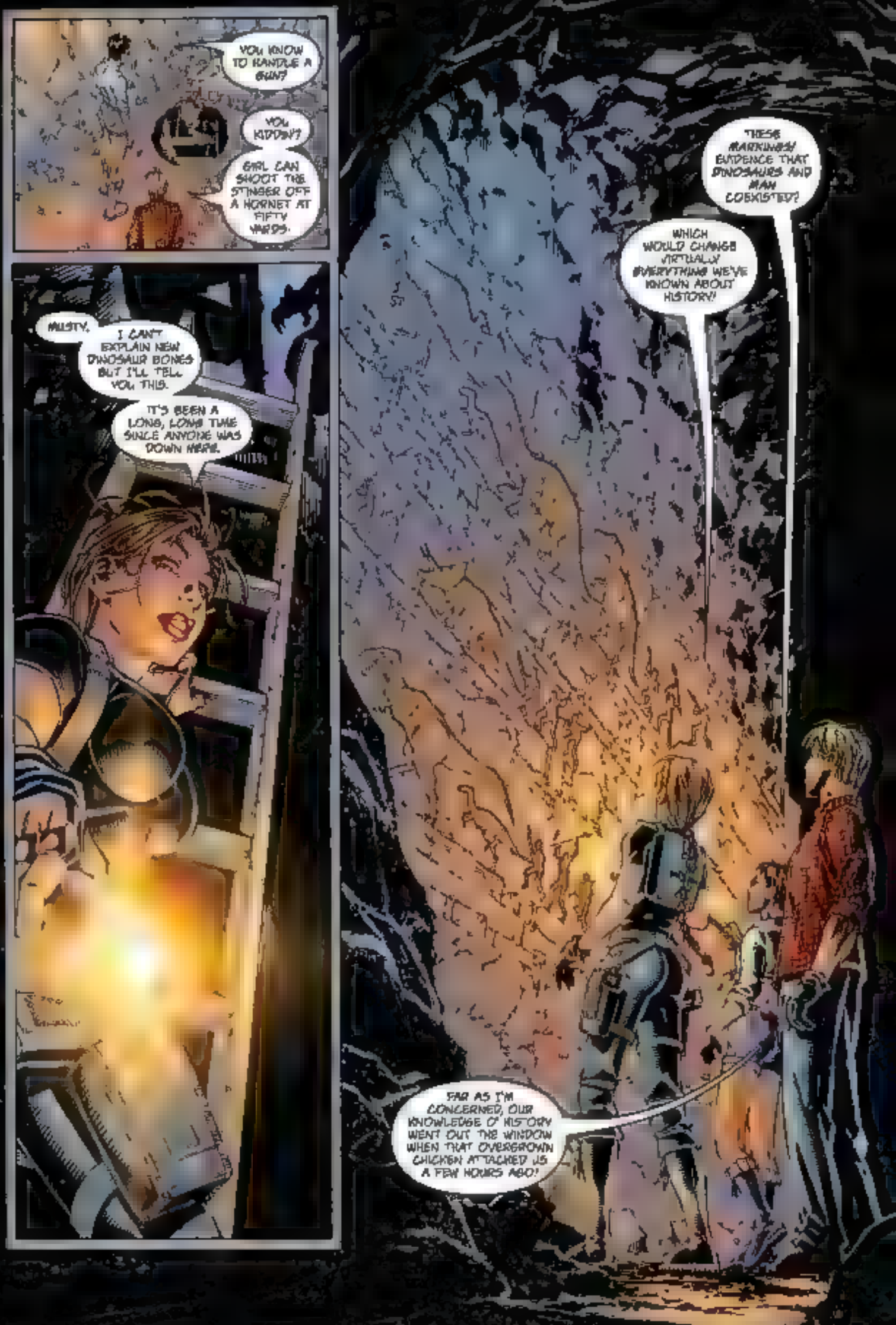
IF EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME ANYTHING—

--IT'S THAT YOU NEVER WALK INTO THE UNKNOWN--

--UNPREPARED

AND NOTHING SAYS PREPARED BETTER THAN COLD STEEL.

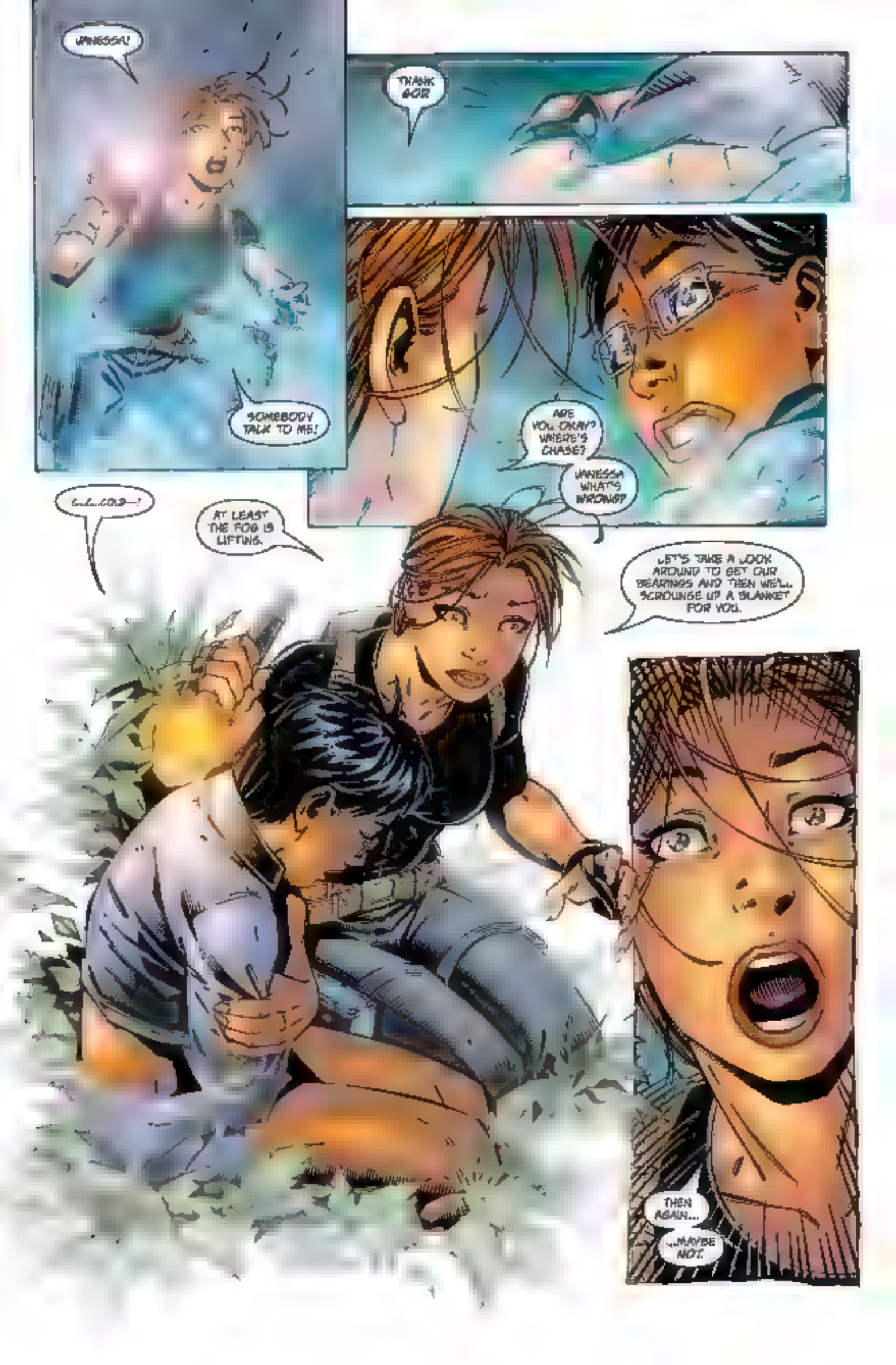
LET'S GO.

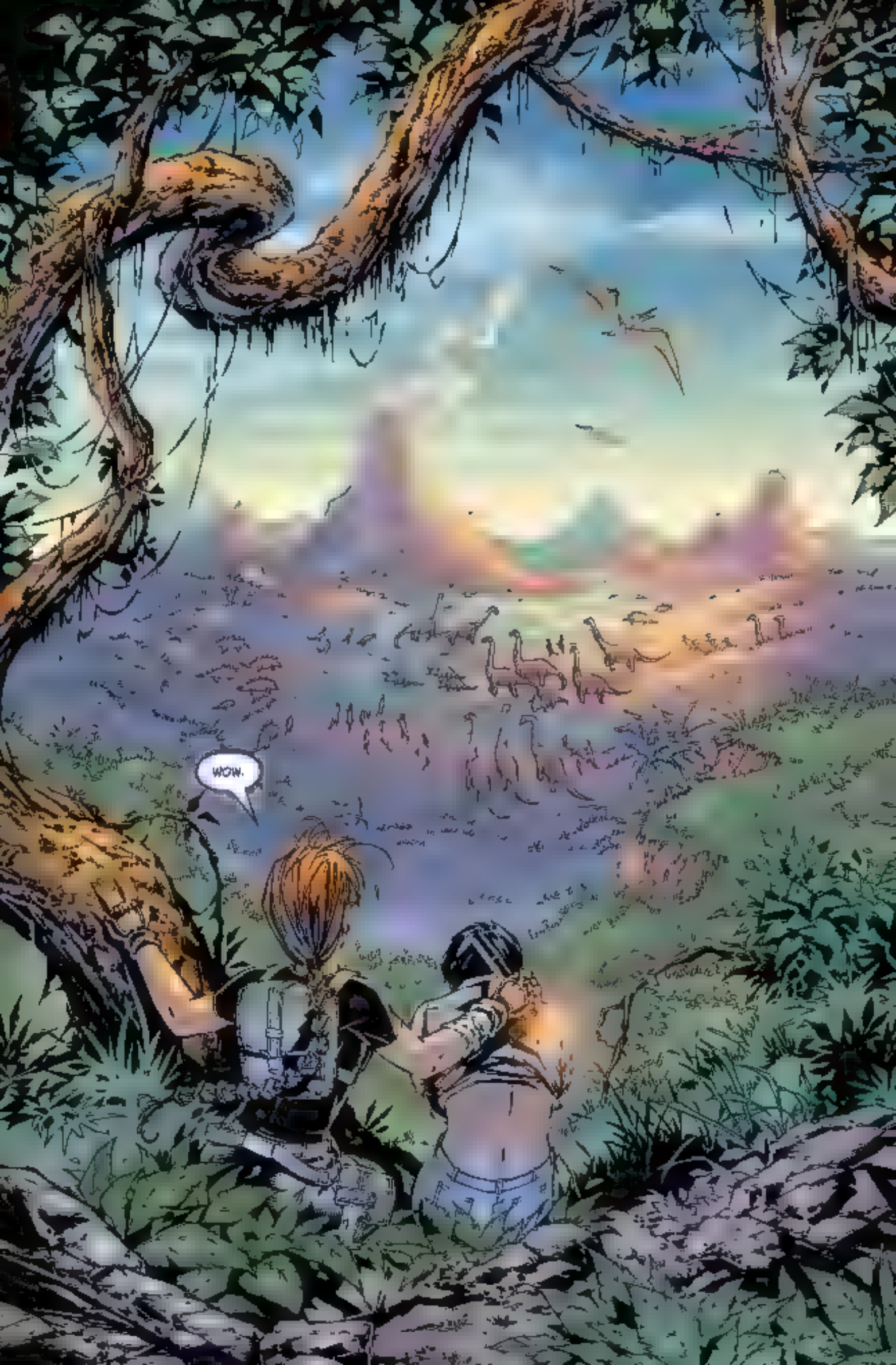

YOU KNOW TO HANDLE A GUN?
YOU KIDDIN'?
GIRL CAN SHOOT THE STINGER OFF A HORNET AT FIFTY YARDS.
MUSTY.
I CAN'T EXPLAIN NEW DINOSAUR BONES BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS.
IT'S BEEN A LONG, LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE WAS DOWN HERE.
THESE MARKINGS! EVIDENCE THAT DINOSAURS AND MAN COEXISTED?
WHICH WOULD CHANGE VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING WE'VE KNOWN ABOUT HISTORY!
FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, OUR KNOWLEDGE O' HISTORY WENT OUT THE WINDOW WHEN THAT OVERGROWN CHICKEN ATTACKED US A FEW HOURS AGO!

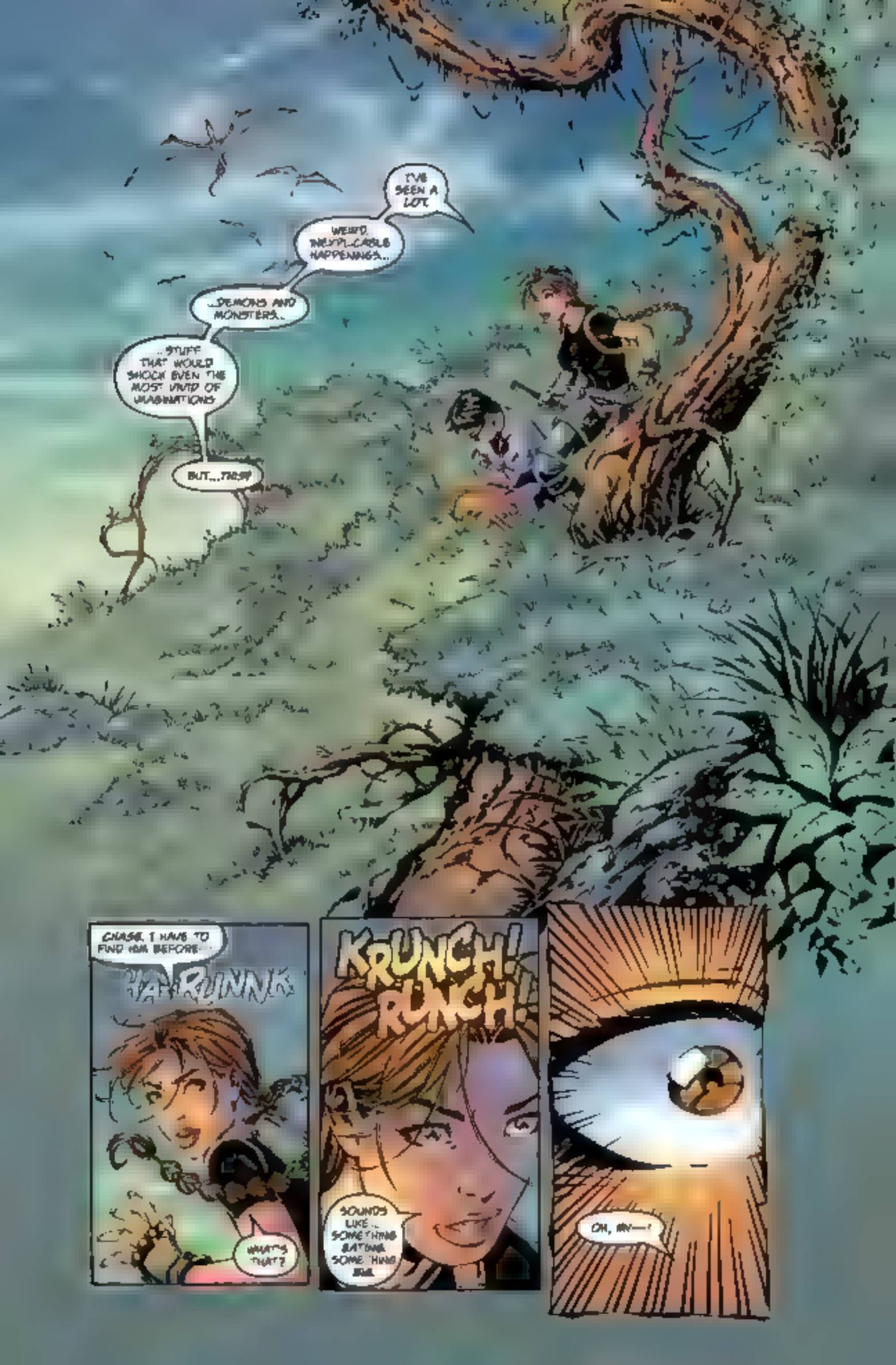
OUR PTERANODON STORY DIDN'T SHOCK YOU ONE BIT, VANESSA.
YOU MUST HAVE SEEN IT TOO.
NOT AS CLEARLY AS YOU.
BUT I'VE HEARD UNEARTHLY SOUNDS AT NIGHT THAT NO MODERN ANIMAL CAN MAKE.
WE COULD BE ON THE VERGE OF THE ULTIMATE DISCOVERY, LARA! JUST THINK OF IT!
ME, I LIKE THINKIN' ABOUT THE GOWN I'LL BRING ME!
WHAP!
WOULD YOU STOP HITTIN' ME?

ANOTHER ENTRANCE. THIS TUNNEL GOES FARTHER THAN WE THOUGHT!
MY GUT TELLS ME THE FARTHER WE GO--
--THE NASTIER IT'S GONNA GET.
NASTY OR NOT, IF THAT'S WHERE THE ANSWERS ARE--
--THAT'S WHERE WE GO.
IF YOU SAY SO, DARLIN' BUT I'M TELLIN' YA HERE AND NOW--
"--TROUBLE'S COMIN' OUR WAY."

MORE PICTOGRAPHS. EACH SHOWING MAN FIGHTING DINOSAUR!
EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT LIFE ON EARTH HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST FIVE MINUTES!
HEADS UP, PEOPLE
SOME KIND OF MIST UP AHEAD.
MIST?
RED, THIS STUFF IS THICKER THAN ANY LONDON FOG I EVER SAW!
I... I CAN'T SEE TWO FEET!
IT'S GETTING WORSE. HOLD HANDS SO WE DON'T GET SEPARATED!
LARA? IS THAT -- HEY! STOP IT! GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
CHASE? WHAT'S WRONG? CHASE?!!
HELLP!
CHASE?!


VANESSA!
SOMEBODY TALK TO ME!
THANK GOD
ARE YOU OKAY? WHERE'S CHASE?
VANESSA WHAT'S WRONG?
AT LEAST THE FOG IS LIFTING.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AROUND TO GET OUR BEARINGS AND THEN WE'LL SCROUNGE UP A BLANKET FOR YOU.
THEN AGAIN...
...MAYBE NOT.


WOW.


I'VE SEEN A LOT.
WEIRD, INEXPLICABLE HAPPENINGS...
...DEMONS AND MONSTERS...
...STUFF THAT WOULD SHOCK EVEN THE MOST UNTIED OF IMAGINATIONS
BUT...THIS?
CHASE, I HAVE TO FIND HIM BEFORE--
HARUNK
WHAT'S THAT?
KRUNCH! RUNCH!
SOUNDS LIKE... SOMETHING EATING SOMETHING ELSE.
OH, MY--!

AHHRAHHR!!

ANCIENT FUTURES PART 2

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

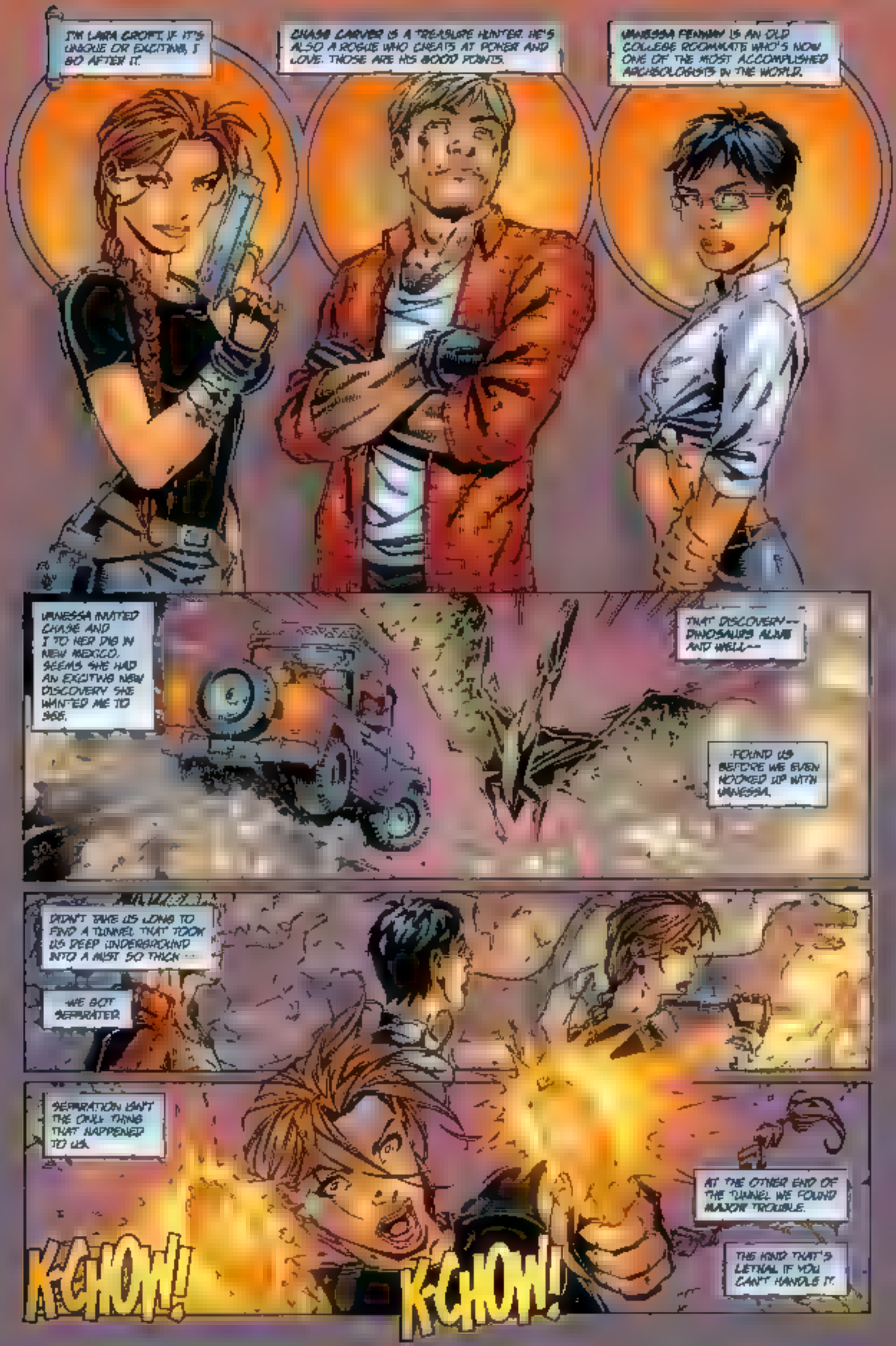
PENCILS
[illegible]

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL, BILLY TAN,
[illegible]

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
[illegible]

COVER ART
JOE JUSKO


I'M LARA CROFT. IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING, I GO AFTER IT.
CHASE CARVER IS A TREASURE HUNTER. HE'S ALSO A ROGUE WHO CHEATS AT POKER AND LOVE. THOSE ARE HIS GOOD POINTS.
VANESSA FENWAY IS AN OLD COLLEGE ROOMMATE WHO'S NOW ONE OF THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED ARCHEOLOGISTS IN THE WORLD.
VANESSA INVITED CHASE AND I TO HER DIG IN NEW MEXICO. SEEMS SHE HAD AN EXCITING NEW DISCOVERY SHE WANTED ME TO SEE.
THAT DISCOVERY--- DINOSAURS ALIVE AND WELL---
FOUND US BEFORE WE EVEN HOOKED UP WITH VANESSA.
DIDN'T TAKE US LONG TO FIND A TUNNEL THAT TOOK US DEEP UNDERGROUND INTO A MIST SO THICK---
--WE GOT SEPARATED.
SEPARATION ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT HAPPENED TO US.
AT THE OTHER END OF THE TUNNEL WE FOUND MAJOR TROUBLE.
THE KIND THAT'S LETHAL IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT.
K-CHOW!
K-CHOW!

SPEND A COUPLE OF YEARS IN MY LINE OF WORK AND YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF THINKING ABOUT DEATH.

I'VE WONDERED HOW THE GRIM REAPER MIGHT TAKE ME. FACT IS, A HUNDRED WILD SCENARIOS HAVE PROBABLY CROSSED MY MIND.

BUT, EVEN IF I INCREASED THAT NUMBER TO A THOUSAND, THERE'S NO WAY—

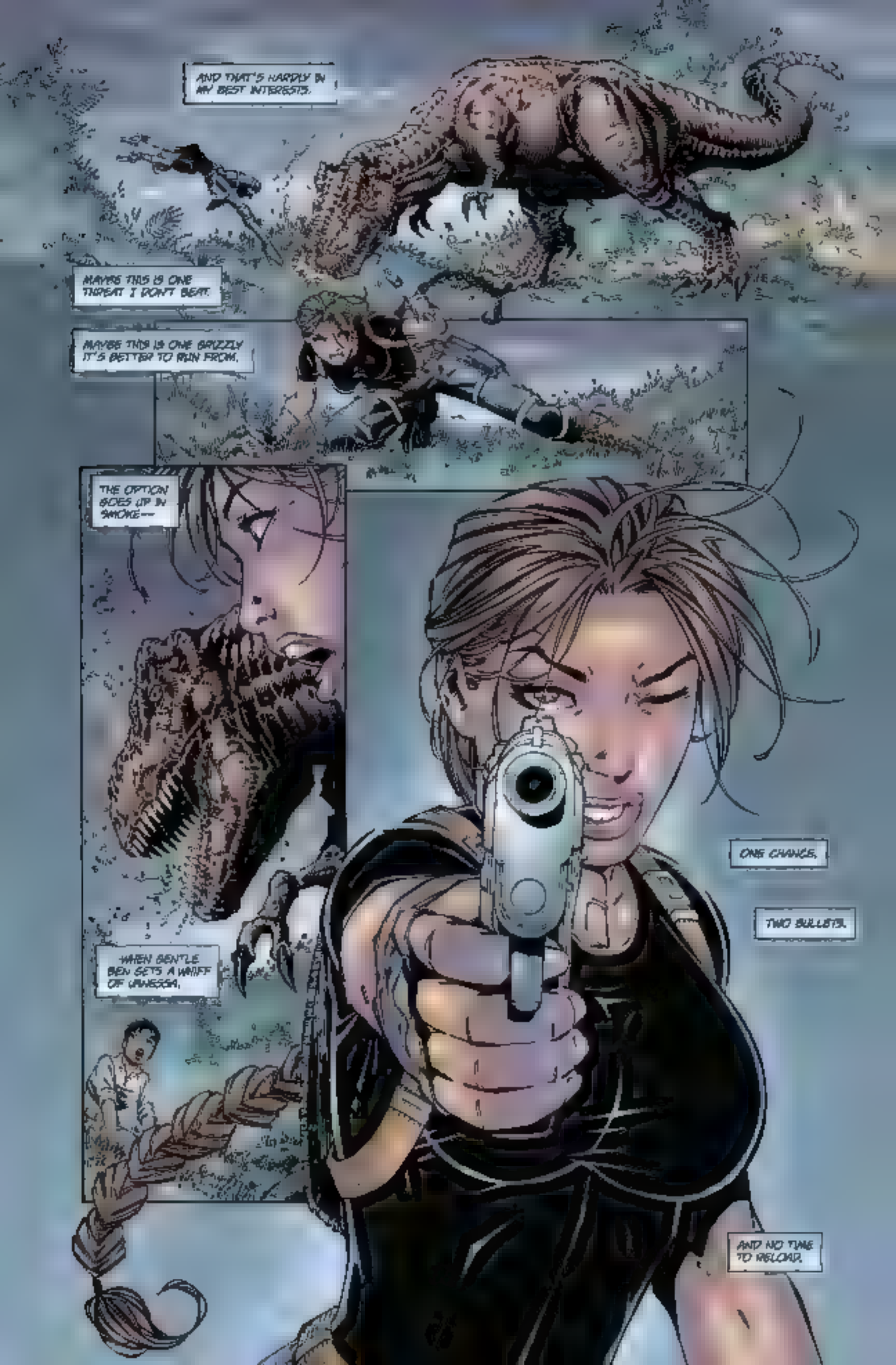
—THAT PLAYING DOG BISCUIT TO A T-REX WOULD EVER HAVE OCCURRED TO ME...

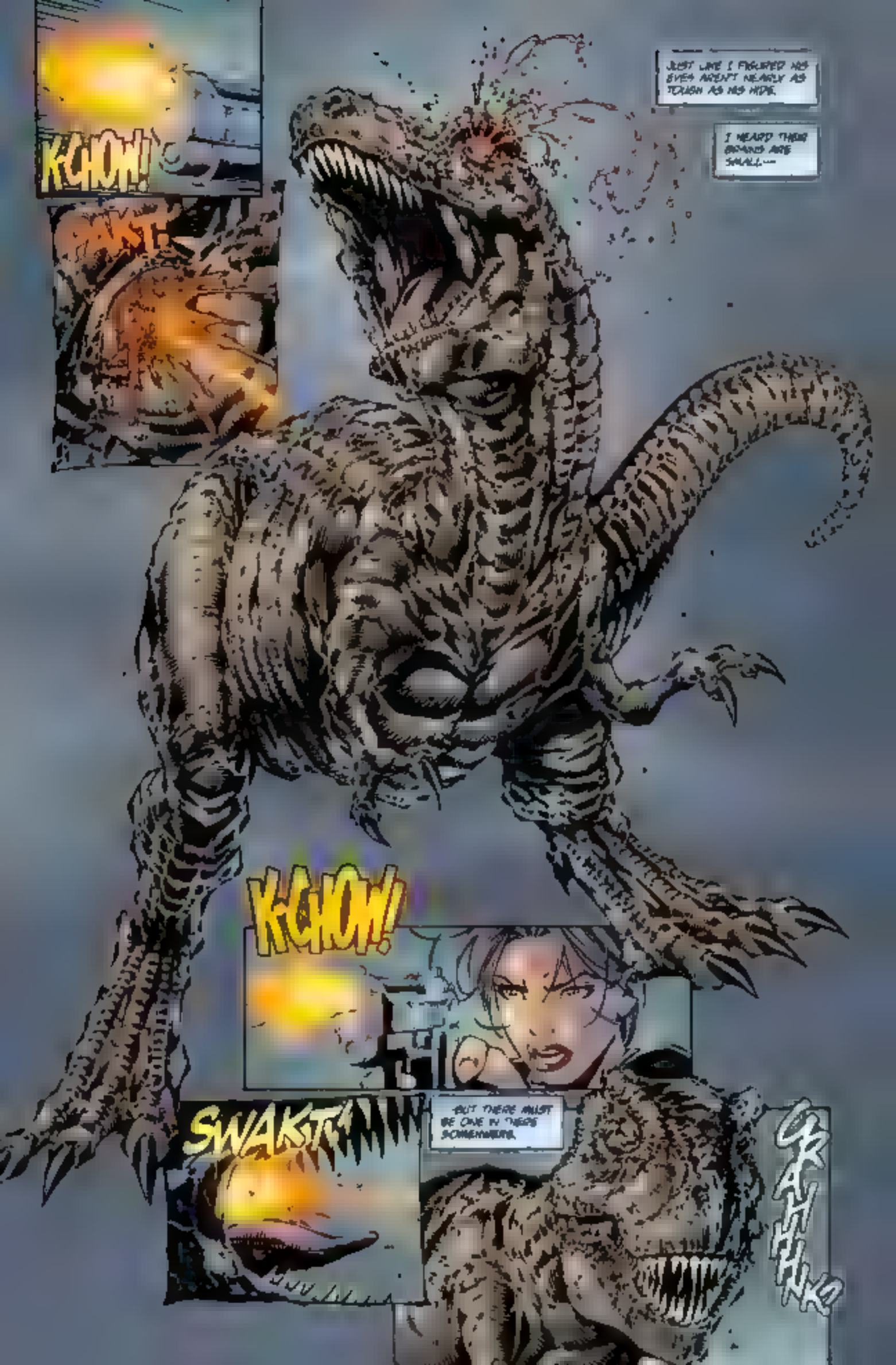
B-DAM!
B-DAM!

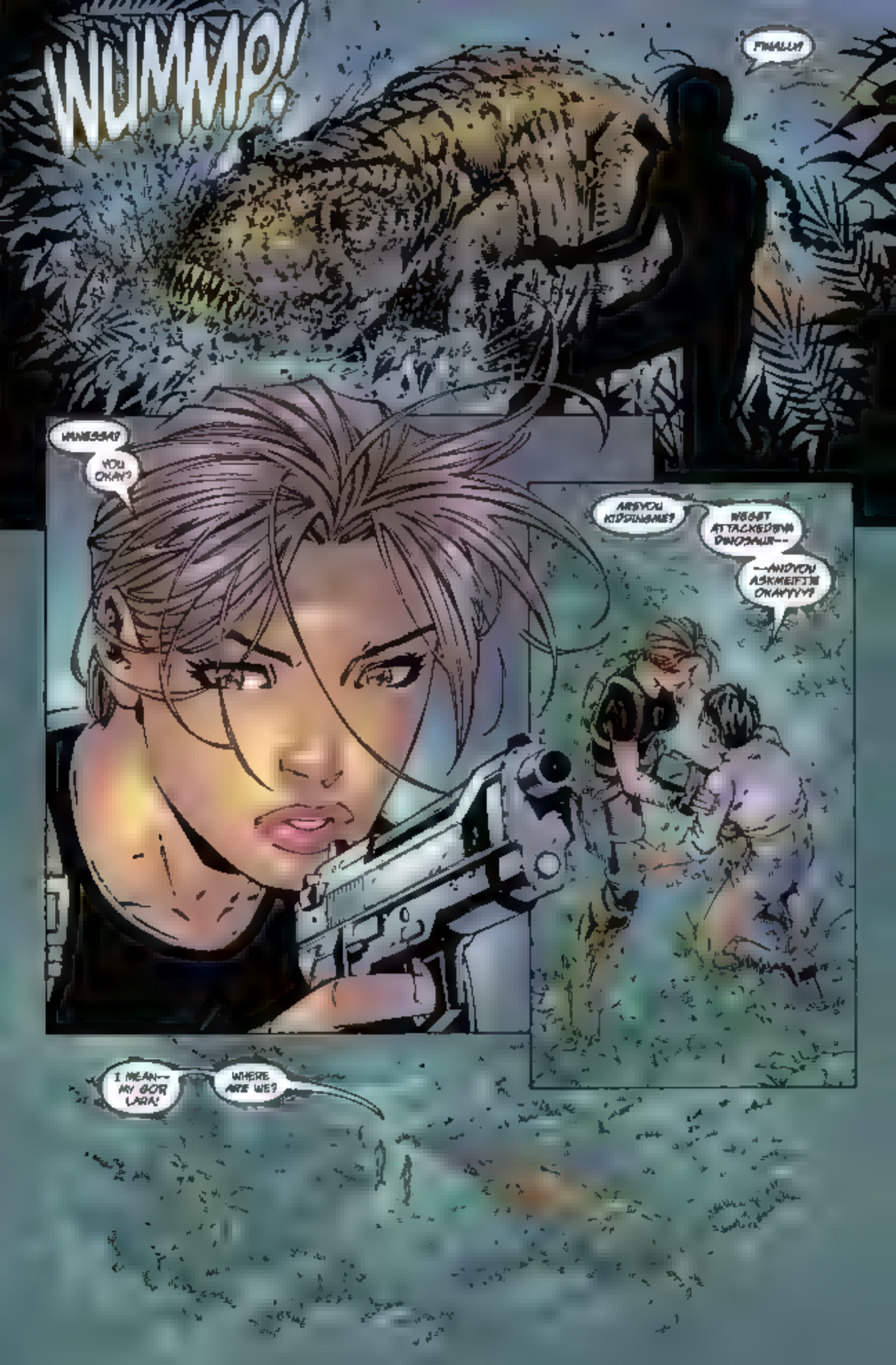
B-DAMM!

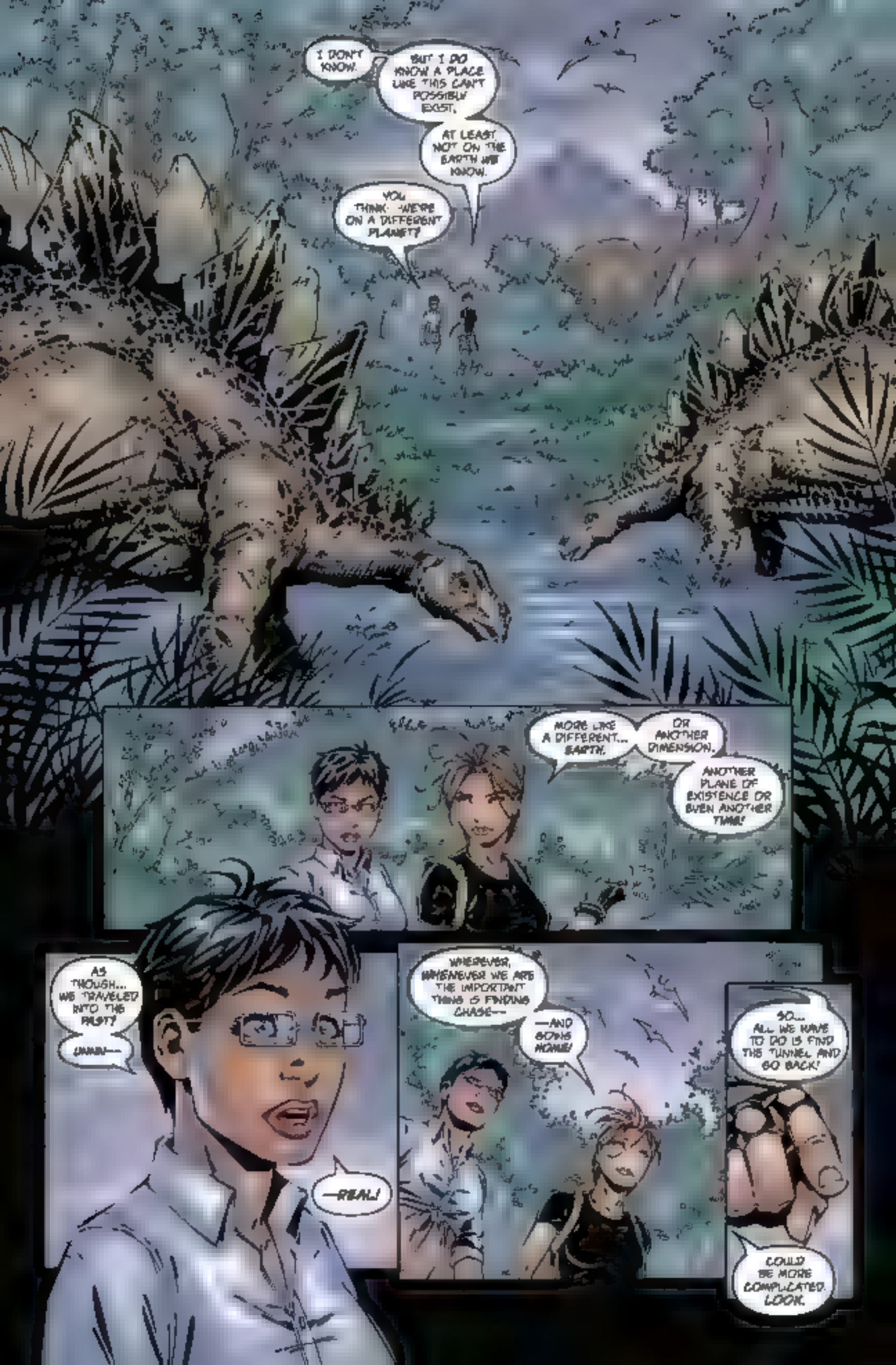
GHRONNNK!

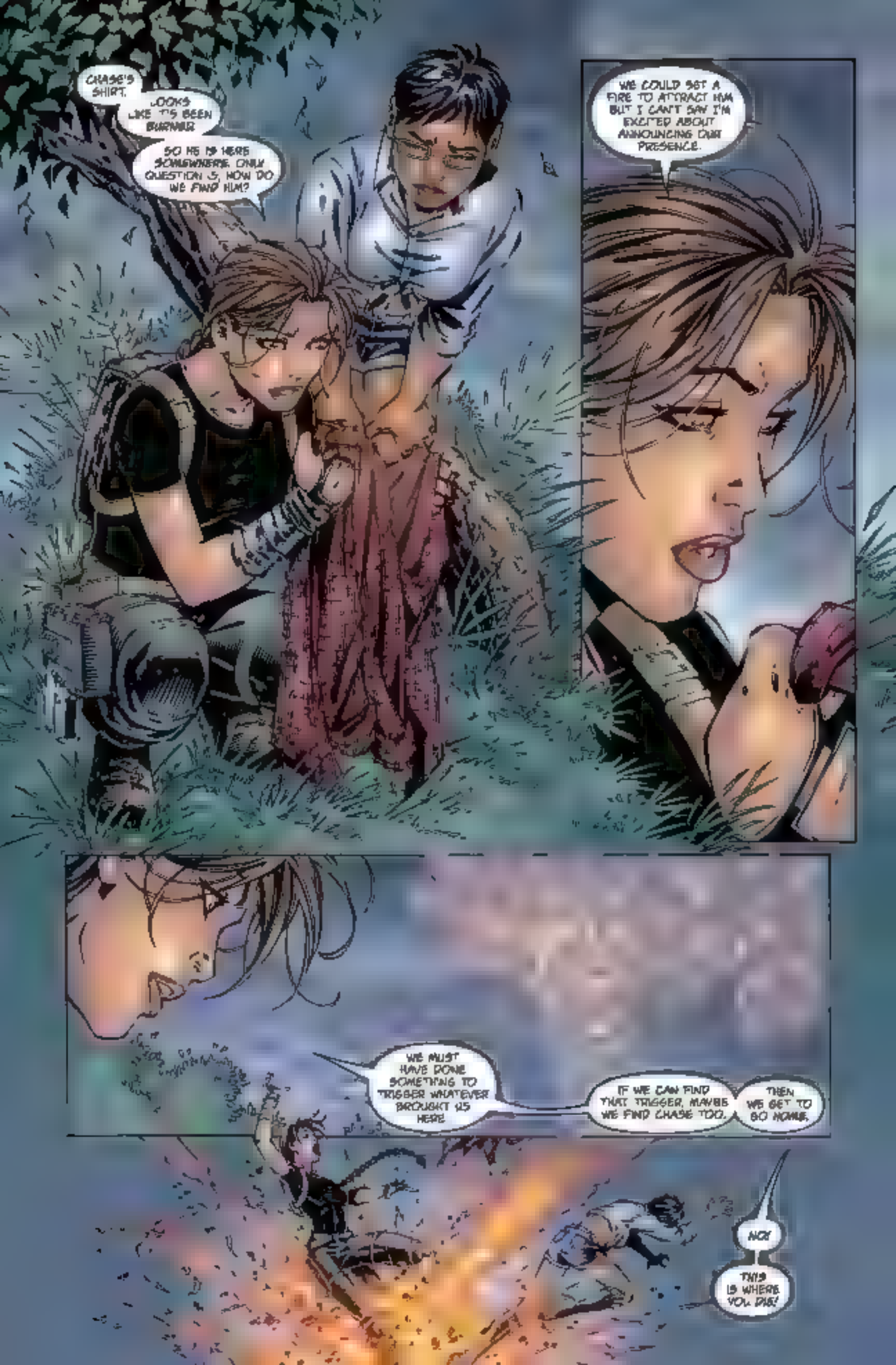
THESE HOLLOW POINT BULLETS CAN TEAR A PERSON APART
BUT THE WAY THIS CRITTER SHRUGS THEM OFF—
K-CHOW!
K-CHOW!
—I MIGHT AS WELL BE ATTACKING HIM WITH AN ARMY OF TRAINED GNATS.
PAP
PAPT
IF ANYTHING, IT ONLY MAKES HIM MADDER.


AND THAT'S HARDLY IN MY BEST INTERESTS.
MAYBE THIS IS ONE THREAT I DON'T BEAT.
MAYBE THIS IS ONE GRIZZLY IT'S BETTER TO RUN FROM.
THE OPTION GOES UP IN SMOKE—
WHEN BEN'TLE BEN GETS A WHIFF OF UNESSA.
ONE CHANCE.
TWO BULLETS.
AND NO TIME TO RELOAD.

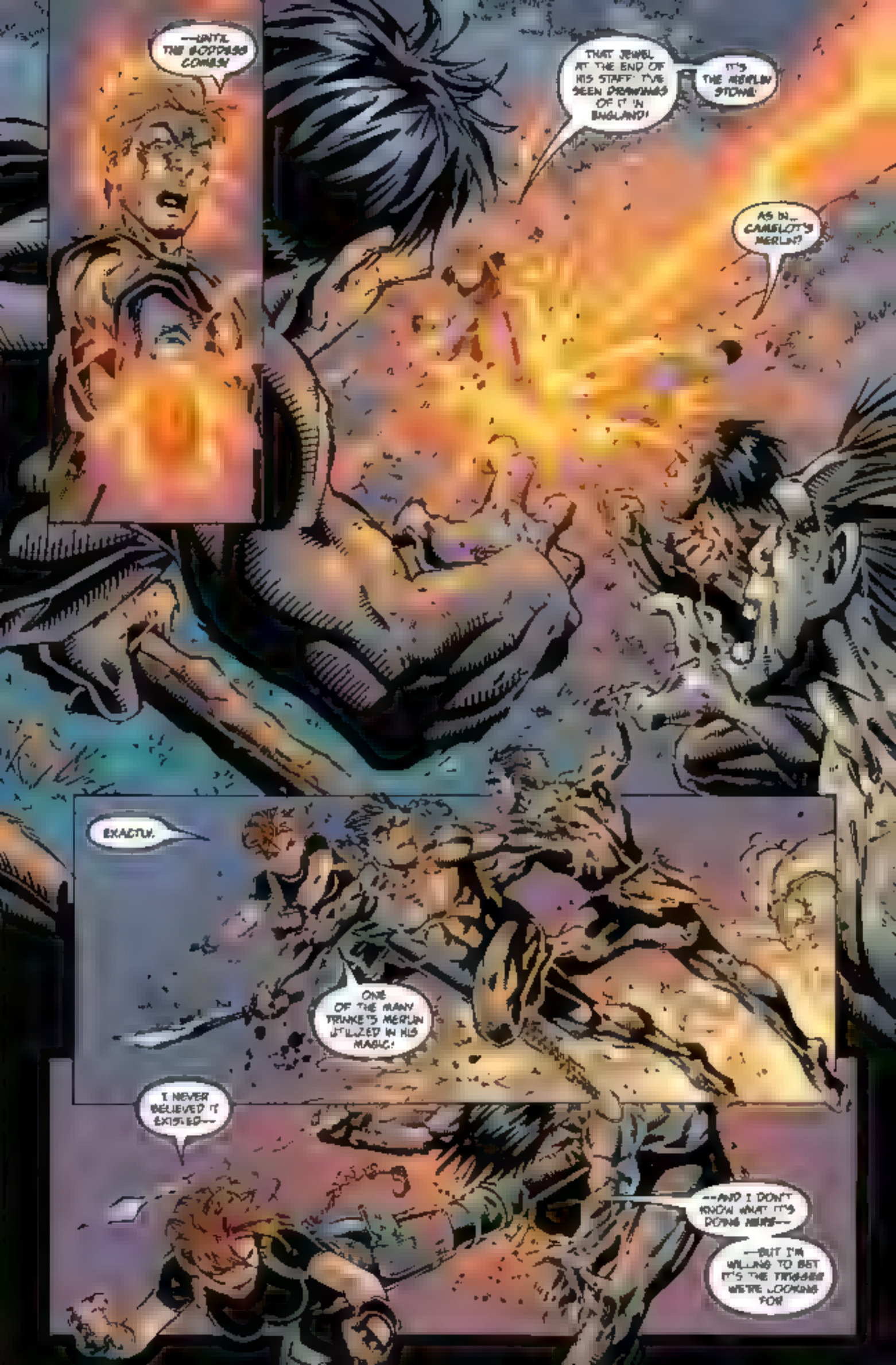

KCHOW!
JUST LIKE I FIGURED HIS EYES AREN'T NEARLY AS TOUGH AS HIS HIDE.
I HEARD THEIR BRAINS ARE SMALL...
KCHOW!
BUT THERE MUST BE ONE IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
SWAK!
CRUNCH!


WUMMP!
FINALLY!
VANESSA?
YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
WE GOT ATTACKED BY A DINOSAUR--
--AND YOU ASK ME IF I'M OKAY?!?!
I MEAN-- MY GOD LARA!
WHERE ARE WE?


I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I DO KNOW A PLACE LIKE THIS CAN'T POSSIBLY EXIST.
AT LEAST NOT ON THE EARTH WE KNOW.
YOU THINK WE'RE ON A DIFFERENT PLANET?
MORE LIKE A DIFFERENT... EARTH.
OR ANOTHER DIMENSION.
ANOTHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE OR EVEN ANOTHER TIME!
AS THOUGH... WE TRAVELED INTO THE PAST?
UHHH—
—REAL!
WHEREVER, WHENEVER WE ARE THE IMPORTANT THING IS FINDING CHASE—
—AND GOING HOME!
SO... ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE TUNNEL AND GO BACK!
COULD BE MORE COMPLICATED. LOOK.

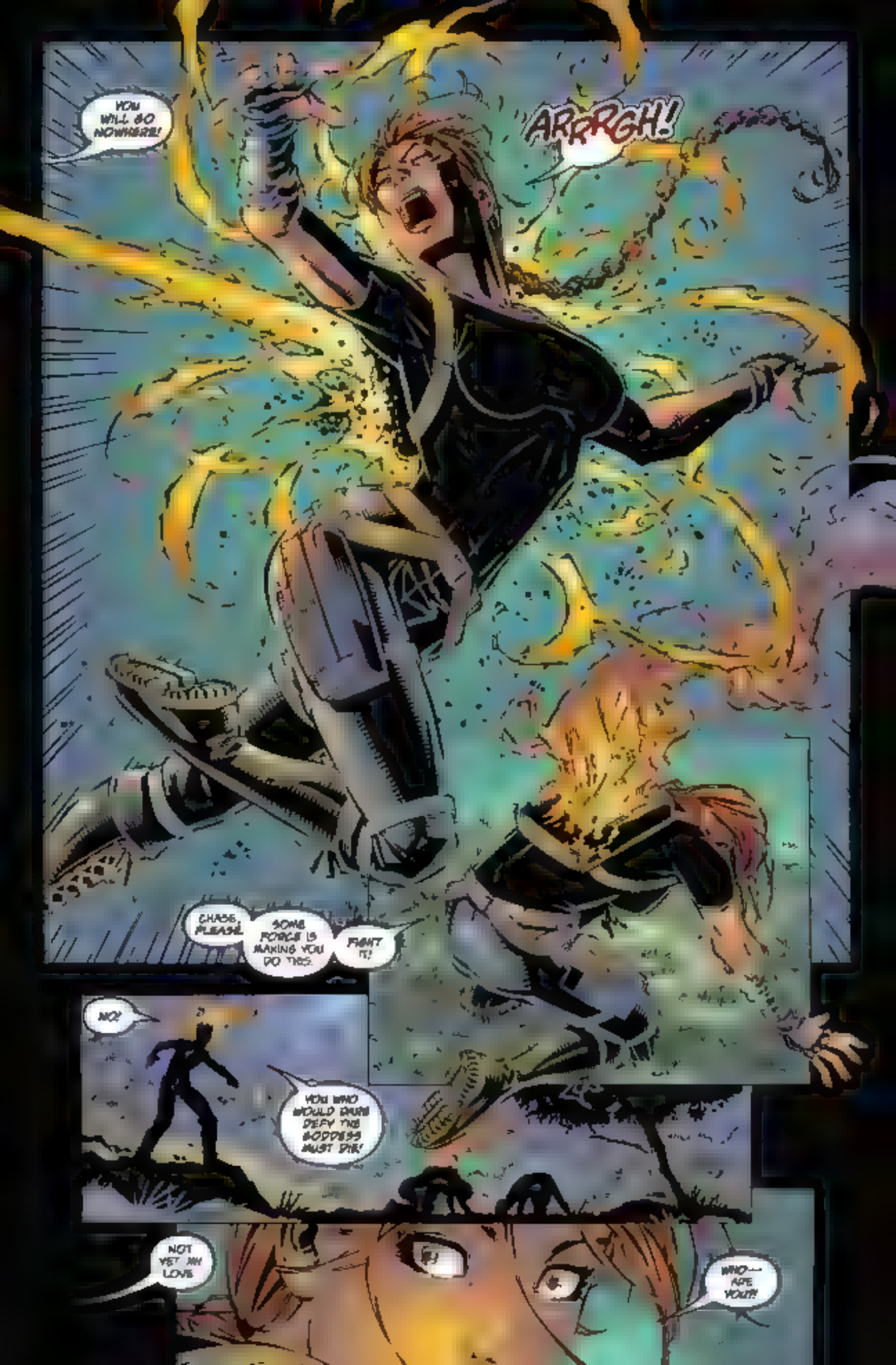

CHASE'S SHIRT.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN BURNED.
SO HE IS HERE SOMEWHERE. ONLY QUESTION IS, HOW DO WE FIND HIM?
WE COULD SET A FIRE TO ATTRACT HIM BUT I CAN'T SAY I'M EXCITED ABOUT ANNOUNCING OUR PRESENCE.
WE MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO TRIGGER WHATEVER BROUGHT US HERE.
IF WE CAN FIND THAT TRIGGER, MAYBE WE FIND CHASE TOO.
THEN WE GET TO GO HOME.
NO!
THIS IS WHERE YOU DIE!

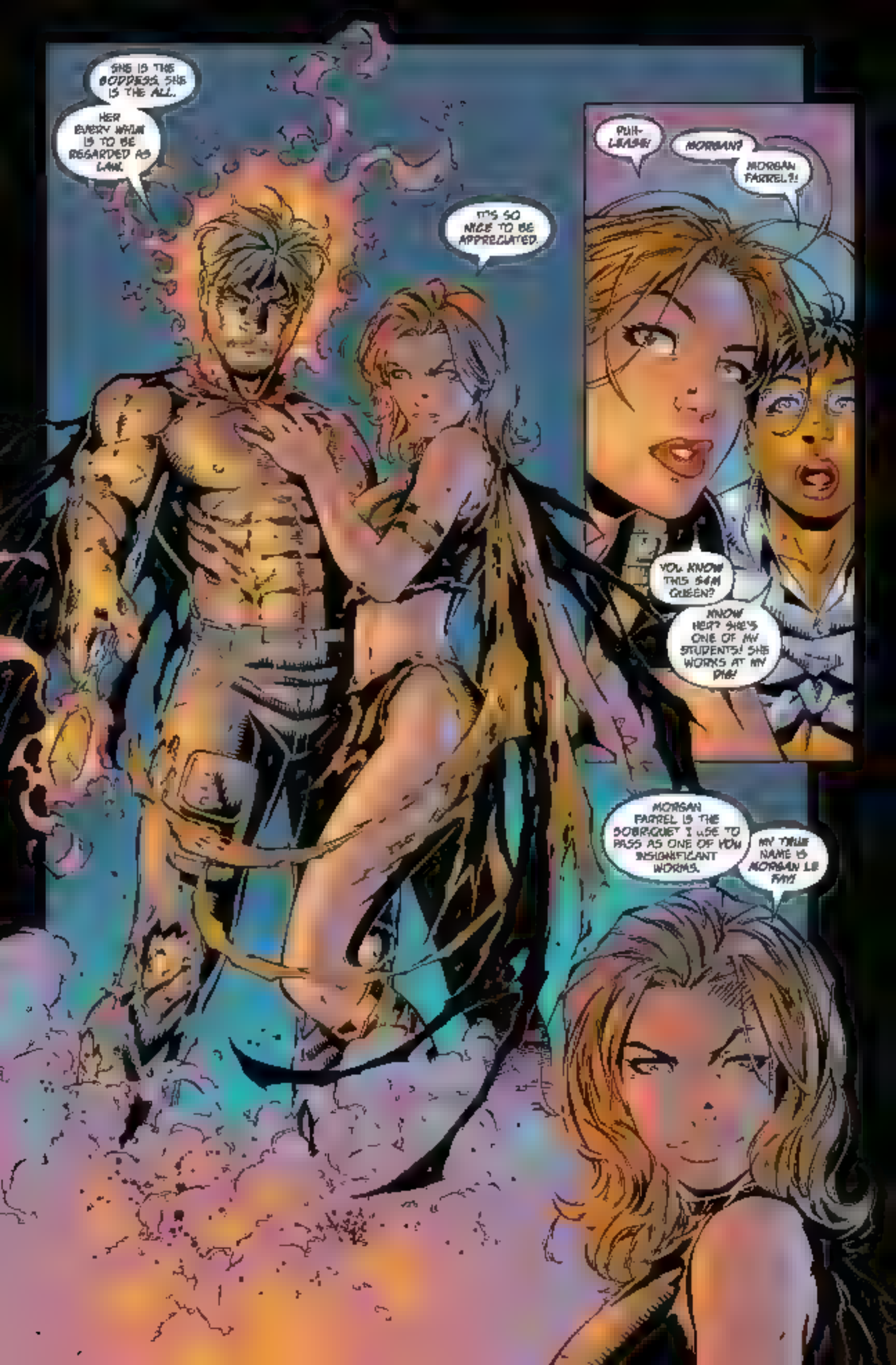
YOUR MEAT WILL FEED OUR YOUNG
YOUR BONES WILL BECOME OUR WEAPONS
YOUR FLESH WILL BE DRIED FOR CLOTHING!
SUCH IS THE WAY OF THINGS—

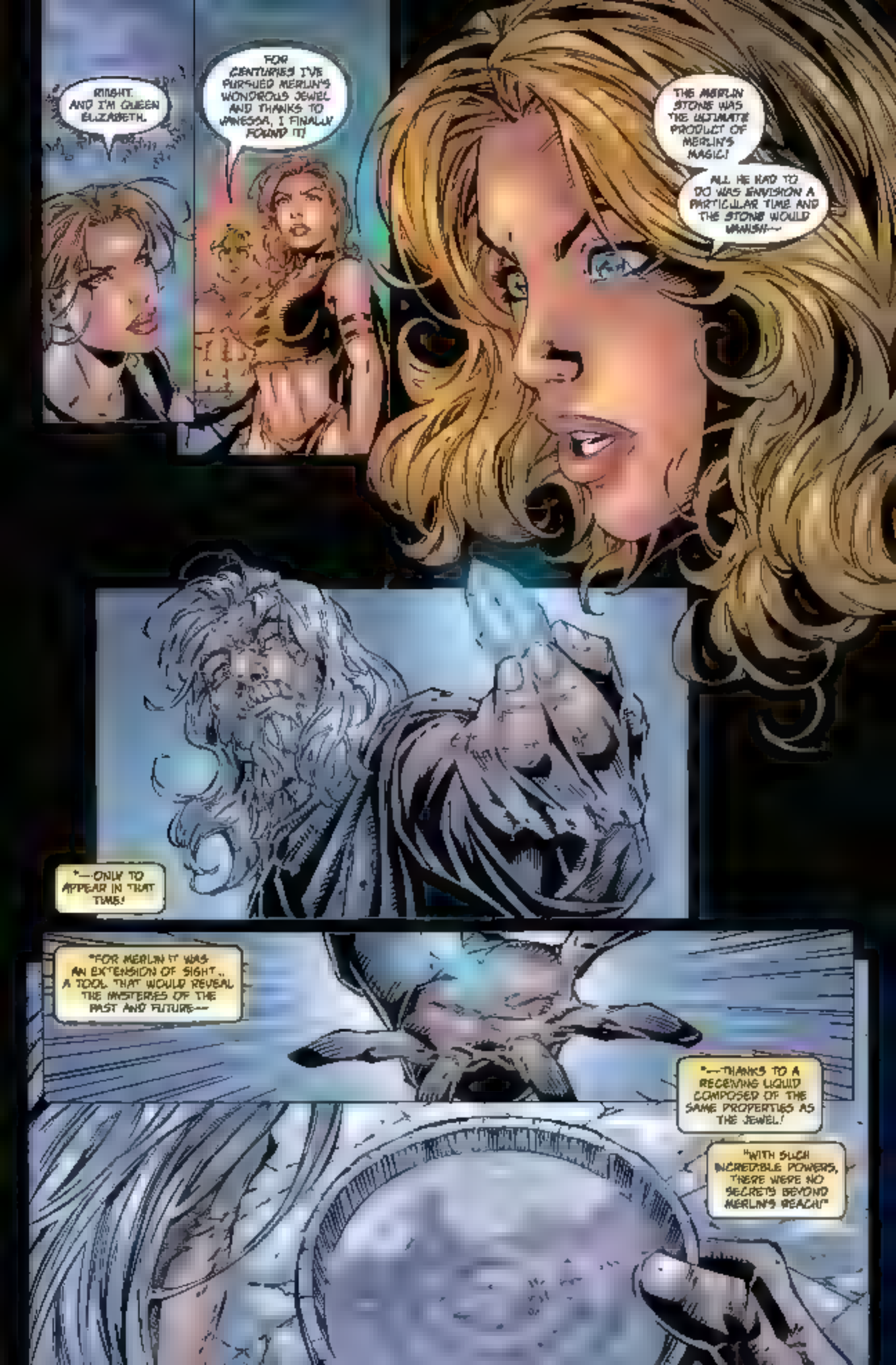

—UNTIL THE GODDESS COMES!
THAT JEWEL AT THE END OF HIS STAFF! I'VE SEEN DRAWINGS OF IT IN ENGLAND!
IT'S THE MERLIN STONE!
AS IN... CAMELOT'S MERLIN?
EXACTLY.
ONE OF THE MANY TRINKETS MERLIN UTILIZED IN HIS MAGIC!
I NEVER BELIEVED IT EXISTED—
—AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S DOING HERE—
—BUT I'M WILLING TO BET IT'S THE TRIGGER WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

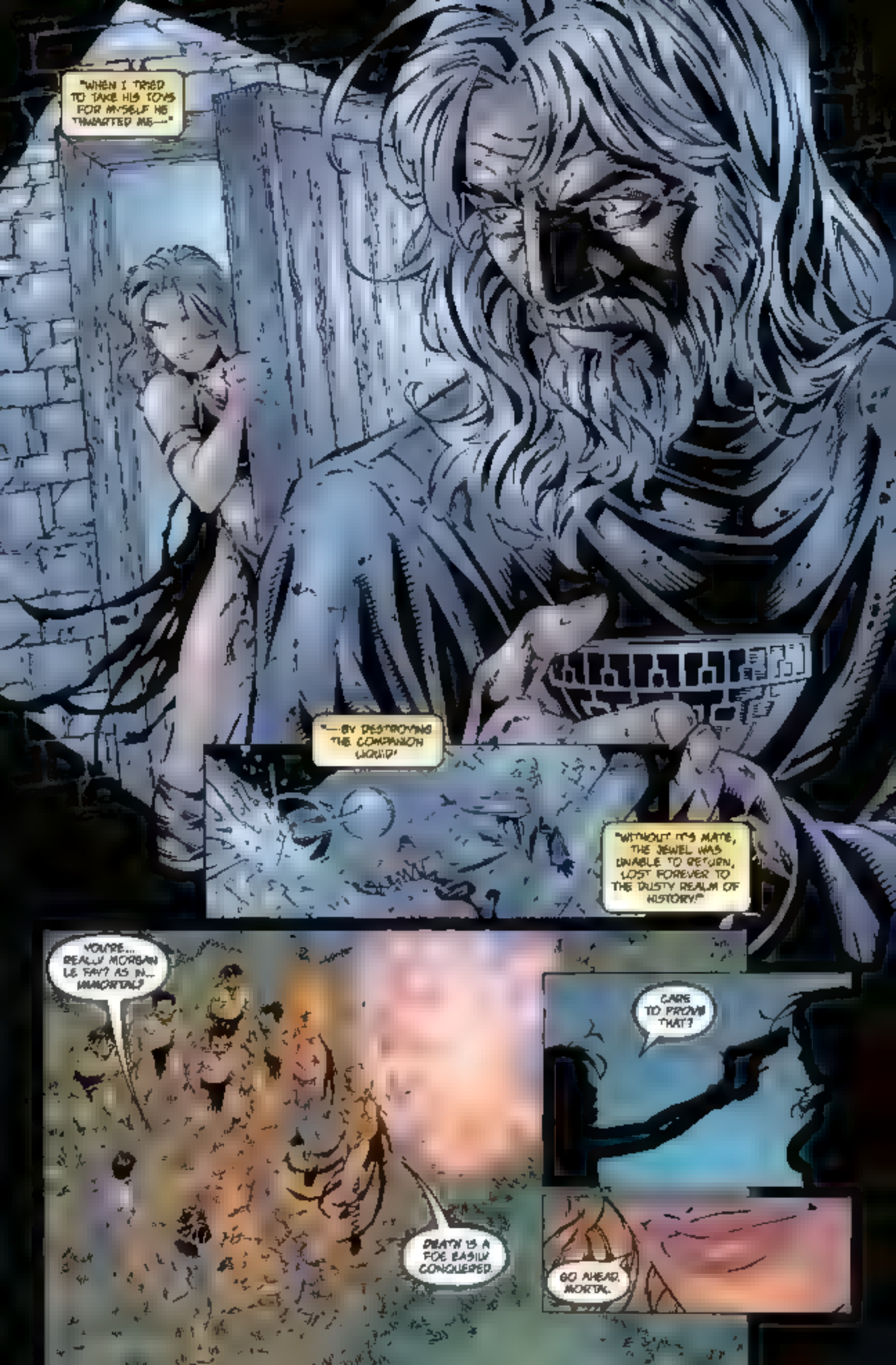
GET OFF ME!
BAD ENOUGH YOU'RE ALL HANDS--
BUT YOU GUYS SMELL LIKE THE SOUTHERN END OF A WATER BUFFALO!
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED, VANESSA!
GOOD THING I HAD TIME TO RELOAD--
--SO I CAN EVEN THE ODDS.
YOU CAN'T! THESE INNOCENT CREATURES DON'T UNDERSTAND!
THEY PROBABLY SEE US AS A THREAT!

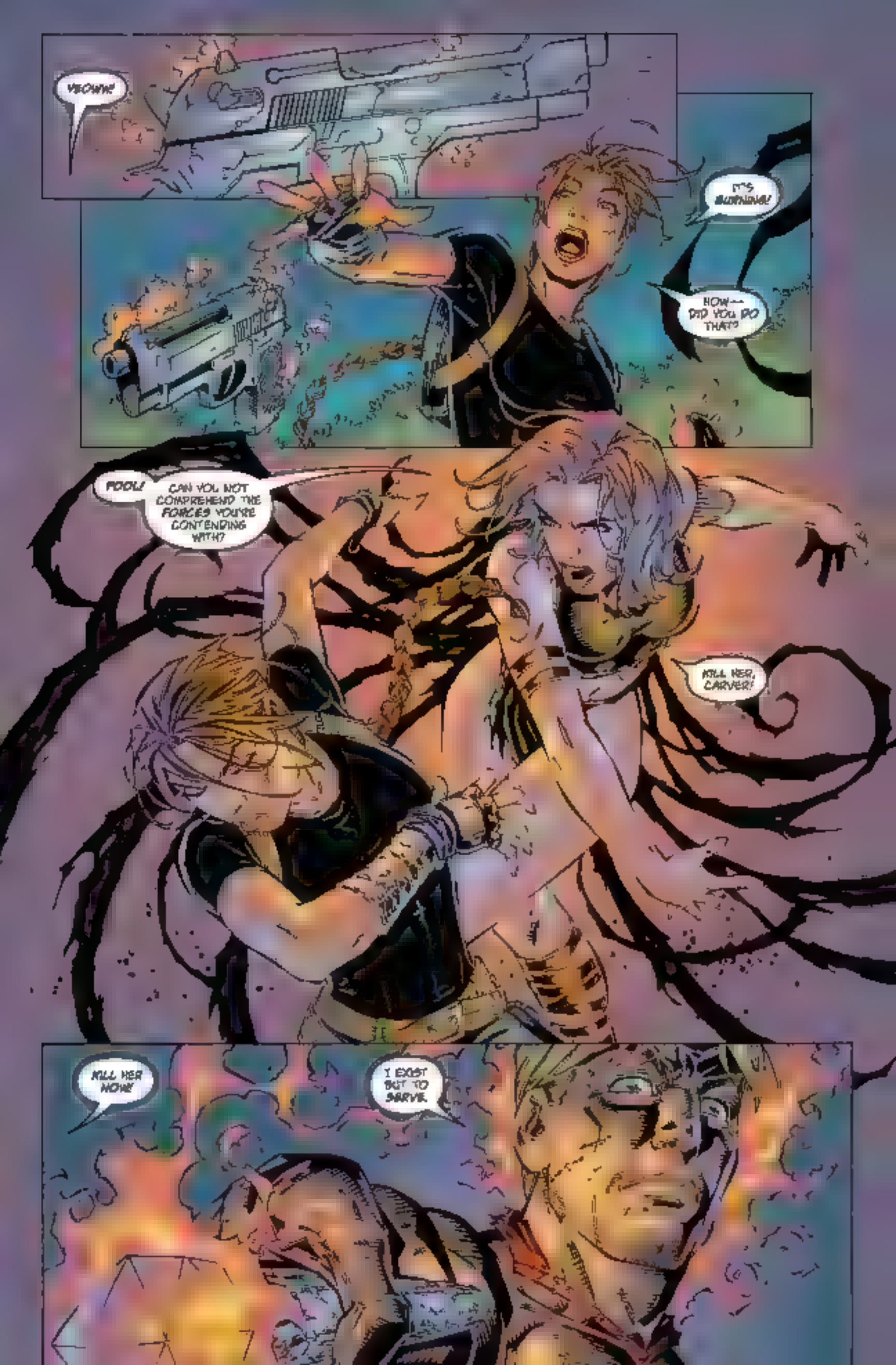
WUPT!
I'M SURE THERE'S A TIME AND PLACE FOR AN ARCHEOLOGIST'S TOLERANCE OF THESE BEASTS--
BUT IT ISN'T NOW!
NO ONE'S TURNING MY SHOULDER BLADE INTO AN AXE!
ONCE WE'RE HOME--
--I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE WITH ME.

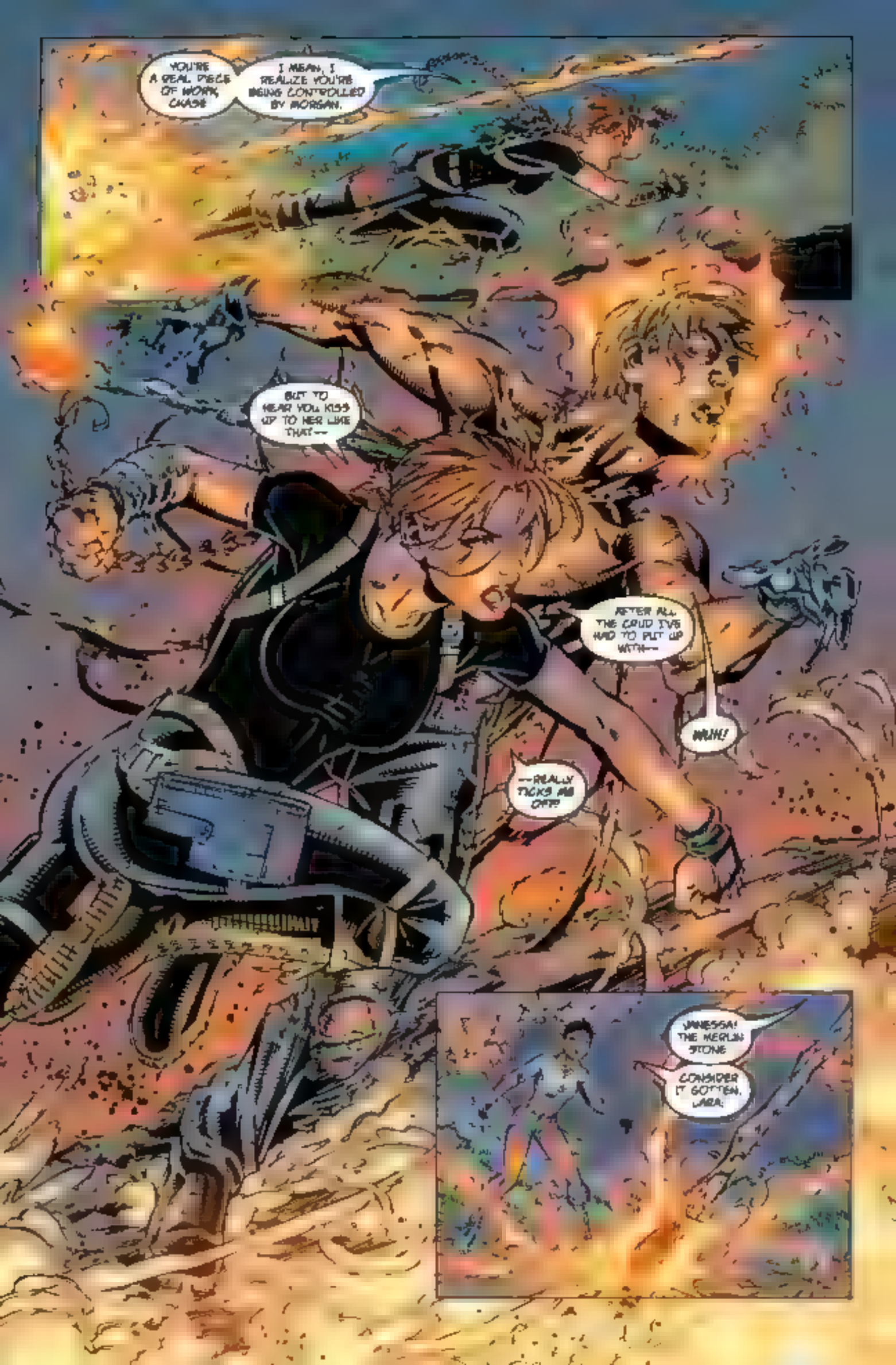

YOU WILL GO NOWHERE!
ARRRGH!
CHAOS, PLEASE!
SOME FORCE IS MAKING YOU DO THIS.
FIGHT IT!
NO!
YOU WHO WOULD DARE DEFY THE GODDESS MUST DIE!
NOT YET MY LOVE
WHO— ARE YOU?!


SHE IS THE GODDESS. SHE IS THE ALL.
HER EVERY WHIM IS TO BE REGARDED AS LAW.
IT'S SO NICE TO BE APPRECIATED.
PUH-LEASE!
MORGAN?
MORGAN FARREL?!
YOU KNOW THIS S&M QUEEN?
KNOW HER? SHE'S ONE OF MY STUDENTS! SHE WORKS AT MY PIE!
MORGAN FARREL IS THE SOBRIQUET I USE TO PASS AS ONE OF YOU INSIGNIFICANT WORMS.
MY TRUE NAME IS MORGAN LE FAY!

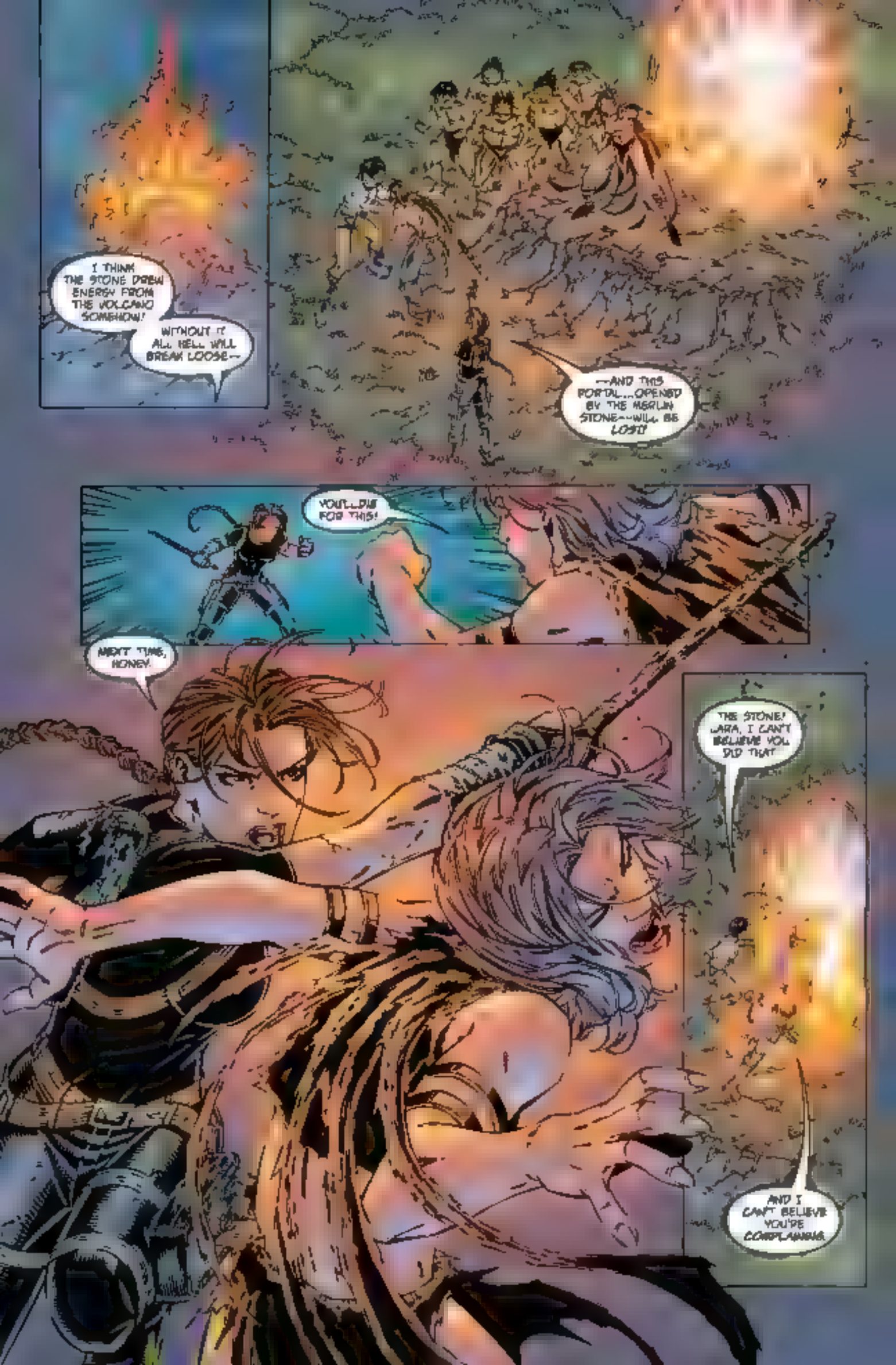

RIGHT. AND I'M QUEEN ELIZABETH.
FOR CENTURIES I'VE PURSUED MERLIN'S WONDROUS JEWEL AND THANKS TO VANESSA, I FINALLY FOUND IT!
THE MERLIN STONE WAS THE ULTIMATE PRODUCT OF MERLIN'S MAGIC!
ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS ENVISION A PARTICULAR TIME AND THE STONE WOULD VANISH—
"—ONLY TO APPEAR IN THAT TIME!
"FOR MERLIN IT WAS AN EXTENSION OF SIGHT.. A TOOL THAT WOULD REVEAL THE MYSTERIES OF THE PAST AND FUTURE—
"—THANKS TO A RECEIVING LIQUID COMPOSED OF THE SAME PROPERTIES AS THE JEWEL!
"WITH SUCH INCREDIBLE POWERS, THERE WERE NO SECRETS BEYOND MERLIN'S REACH!"

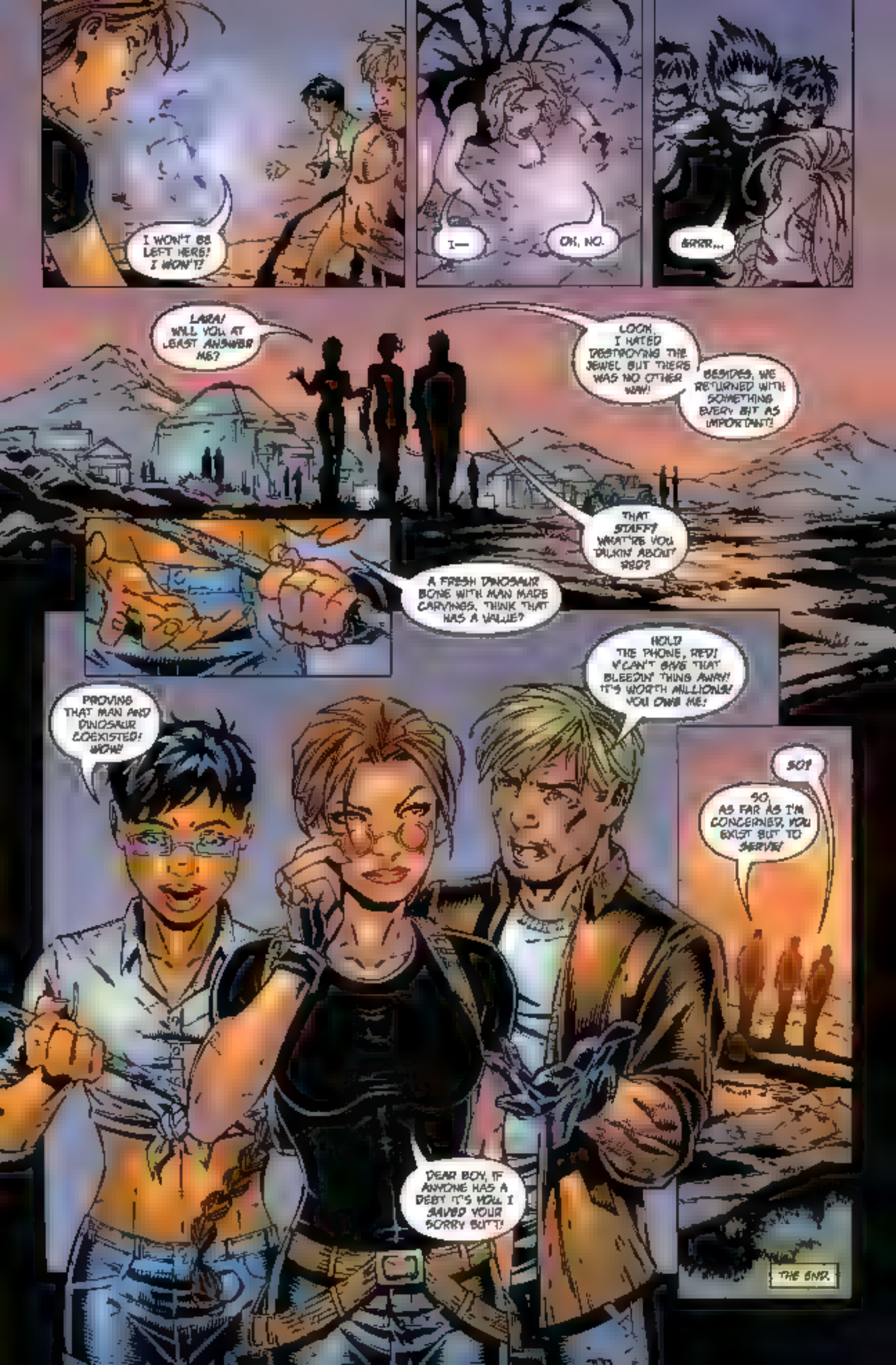

"WHEN I TRIED TO TAKE HIS TOYS FOR MYSELF HE THWARTED ME—"
"—BY DESTROYING THE COMPANION WORLD!"
"WITHOUT IT'S MATE, THE JEWEL WAS UNABLE TO RETURN, LOST FOREVER TO THE DUSTY REALM OF HISTORY!"
YOU'RE... REALLY MORGAN LE FAY? AS IN... IMMORTAL?
CARE TO PROVE THAT?
DEATH IS A FOE EASILY CONQUERED.
GO AHEAD, MORTAL.


YEOWW!
IT'S BURNING!
HOW— DID YOU DO THAT?
FOOL!
CAN YOU NOT COMPREHEND THE FORCES YOU'RE CONTENDING WITH?
KILL HER, CARVER!
KILL HER NOW!
I EXIST BUT TO SERVE.


YOU'RE A REAL PIECE OF WORK, CHASE
I MEAN, I REALIZE YOU'RE BEING CONTROLLED BY MORGAN.
BUT TO HEAR YOU KISS UP TO HER LIKE THAT—
AFTER ALL THE CRUD I'VE HAD TO PUT UP WITH—
UGH!
—REALLY TICKS ME OFF!
VANESSA! THE MERLIN STONE
CONSIDER IT GOTTEN, LARA.

OH, MY——
GET RID OF IT, JANESSA! THROW IT AWAY!
NO! YOU WOULDN'T DARE!
WATCH ME.
I'LL FEED YOUR ENTRAILS TO THE DEMONS OF HELL FOR THIS!
DON'T DESTROY IT, LARA! ITS WORTH IS INCALCULABLE!
IF WE CAN'T GET OUTTA HERE TO BRING IT HOME IT'S WORTH ZIP!
EXACTLY.
BDAMM!
TINK!


I THINK THE STONE DREW ENERGY FROM THE VOLCANO SOMEHOW!
WITHOUT IT ALL HELL WILL BREAK LOOSE--
--AND THIS PORTAL...OPENED BY THE MERLIN STONE--WILL BE LOST!
YOU'LL DIE FOR THIS!
NEXT TIME, HONEY.
THE STONE! LARA, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE COMPLAINING.


I WON'T BE LEFT HERE! I WON'T!
I—
OH, NO.
GRRR...
LARA! WILL YOU AT LEAST ANSWER ME?
LOOK. I HATED DESTROYING THE JEWEL BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY!
BESIDES, WE RETURNED WITH SOMETHING EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT!
THAT STUFF? WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT RED?
A FRESH DINOSAUR BONE WITH MAN MADE CARVINGS. THINK THAT HAS A VALUE?
HOLD THE PHONE, RED! Y'CAN'T GIVE THAT BLEEDIN' THING AWAY! IT'S WORTH MILLIONS! YOU OWE ME!
PROVING THAT MAN AND DINOSAUR COEXISTED! WOW!
SO?
SO, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU EXIST BUT TO SERVE!
DEAR BOY, IF ANYONE HAS A DEBT IT'S YOU! I SAVED YOUR SORRY BUTT!
THE END.

SCRIPT
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PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
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COLORS
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LETTERS
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I'M LARA CROFT. IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING, I GO AFTER IT.
SOME BELIEVE THERE'S NOTHING IN ALL EXISTENCE I CAN'T FIND.
THEY'RE RIGHT.
DEAD CENTER

IN ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE HANDLE A PIECE LIKE HER!

AMAZING SHOT ISN'T SHE?

IF YOU ASK ME, WASSERMAN, EVERYTHING ABOUT HER IS AMAZING!

NICE SHOOTING, LARA. YOUR FAN CLUB IS DROOLING.

THIS IS SHOOTING.

THANKS.

THAT ISN'T SHOOTING.

B-DAM!
B-DAM!
B-DAMMM!

OH MY LORD. I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE THE MAN WHO DID HER WRONG!

YOUR FRIEND'S A PROPER PIECE OF WORK WHOLL EXTRACT A PRICE FOR IT.

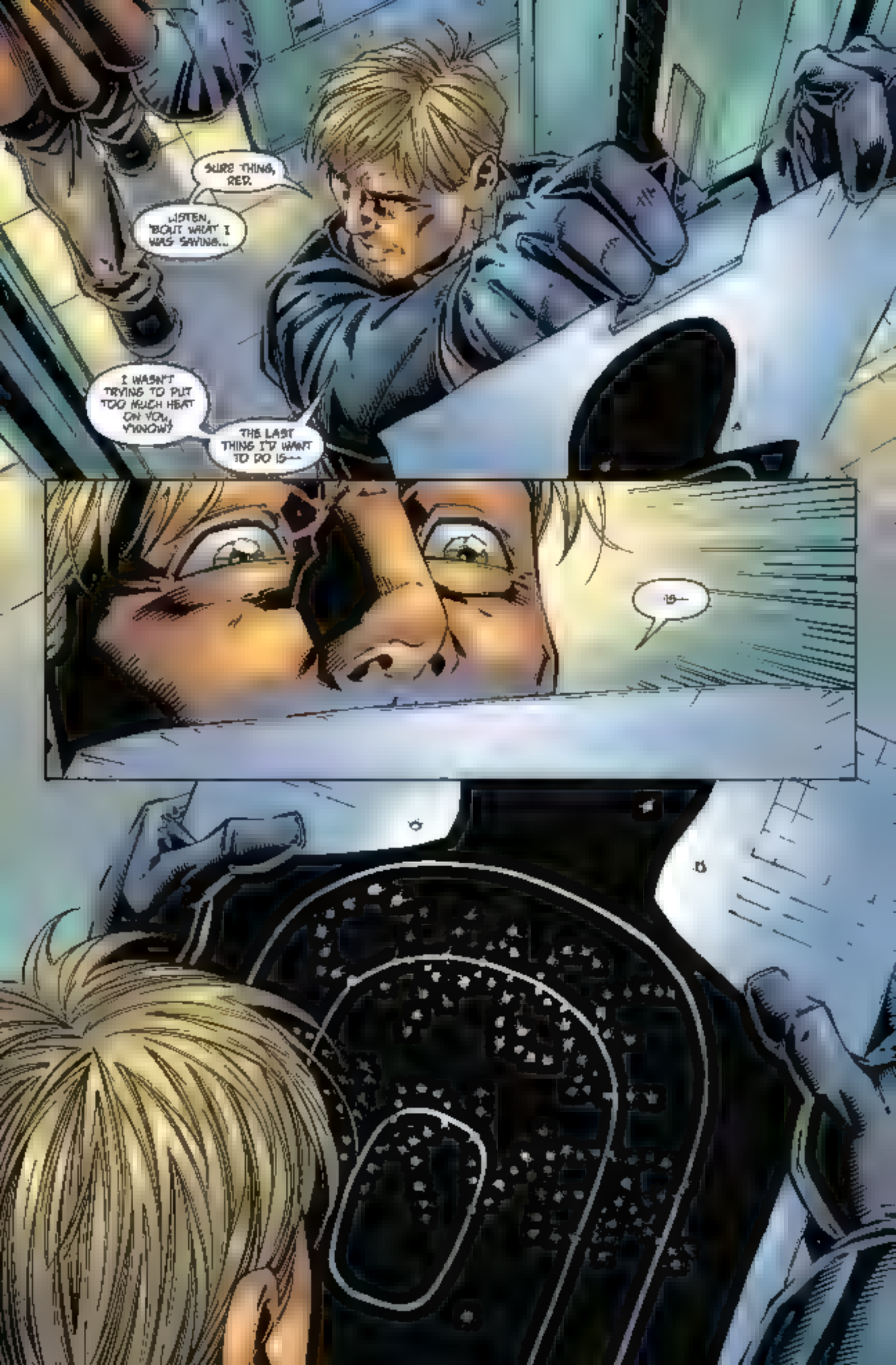
PUT HER IN THE OLYMPICS AND SHE'S A LOCK FOR THE GOLD

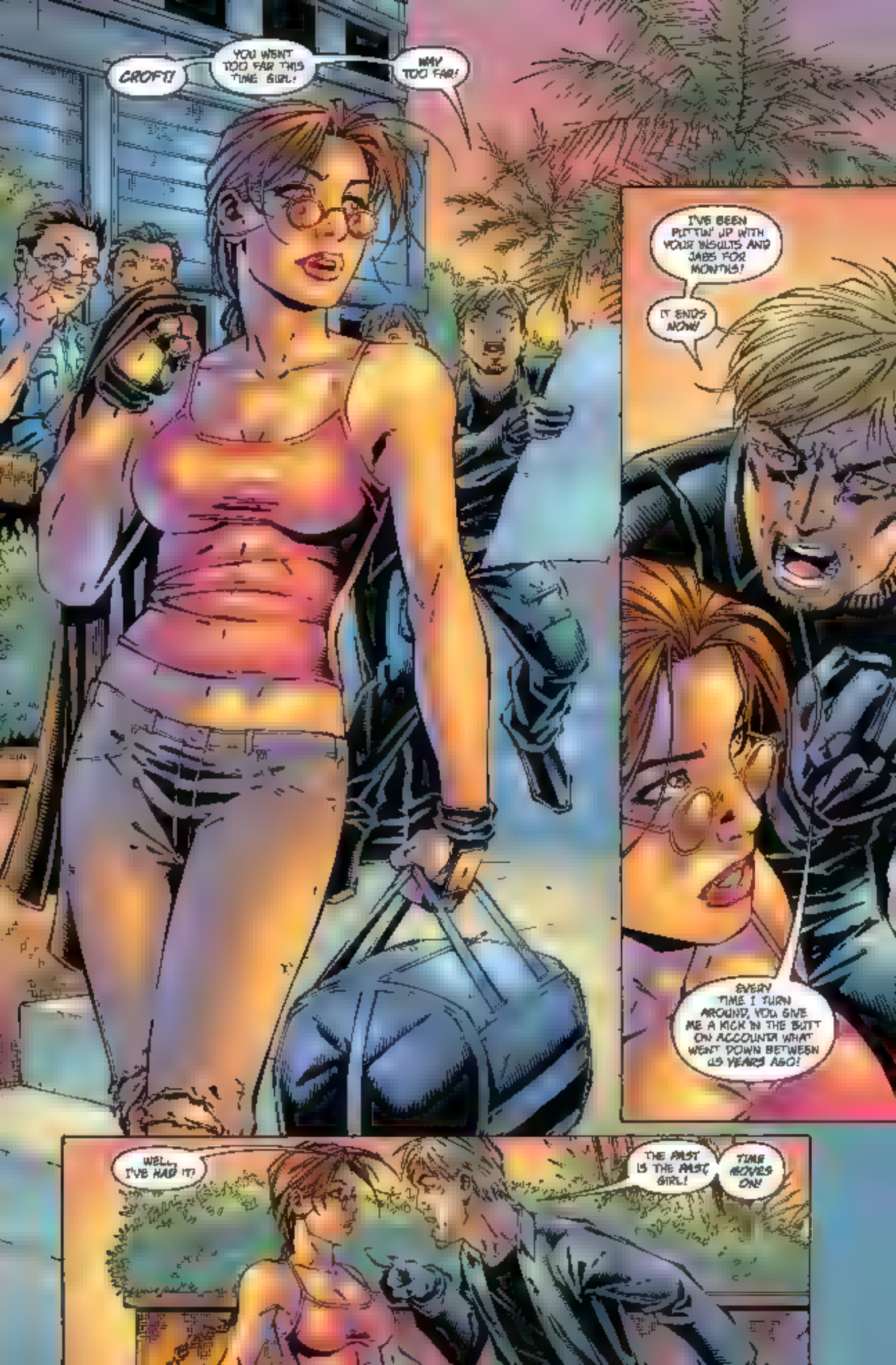
THANKS FOR LETTING ME INTO THE DEPARTMENT'S FIRING RANGE, CONNIE.

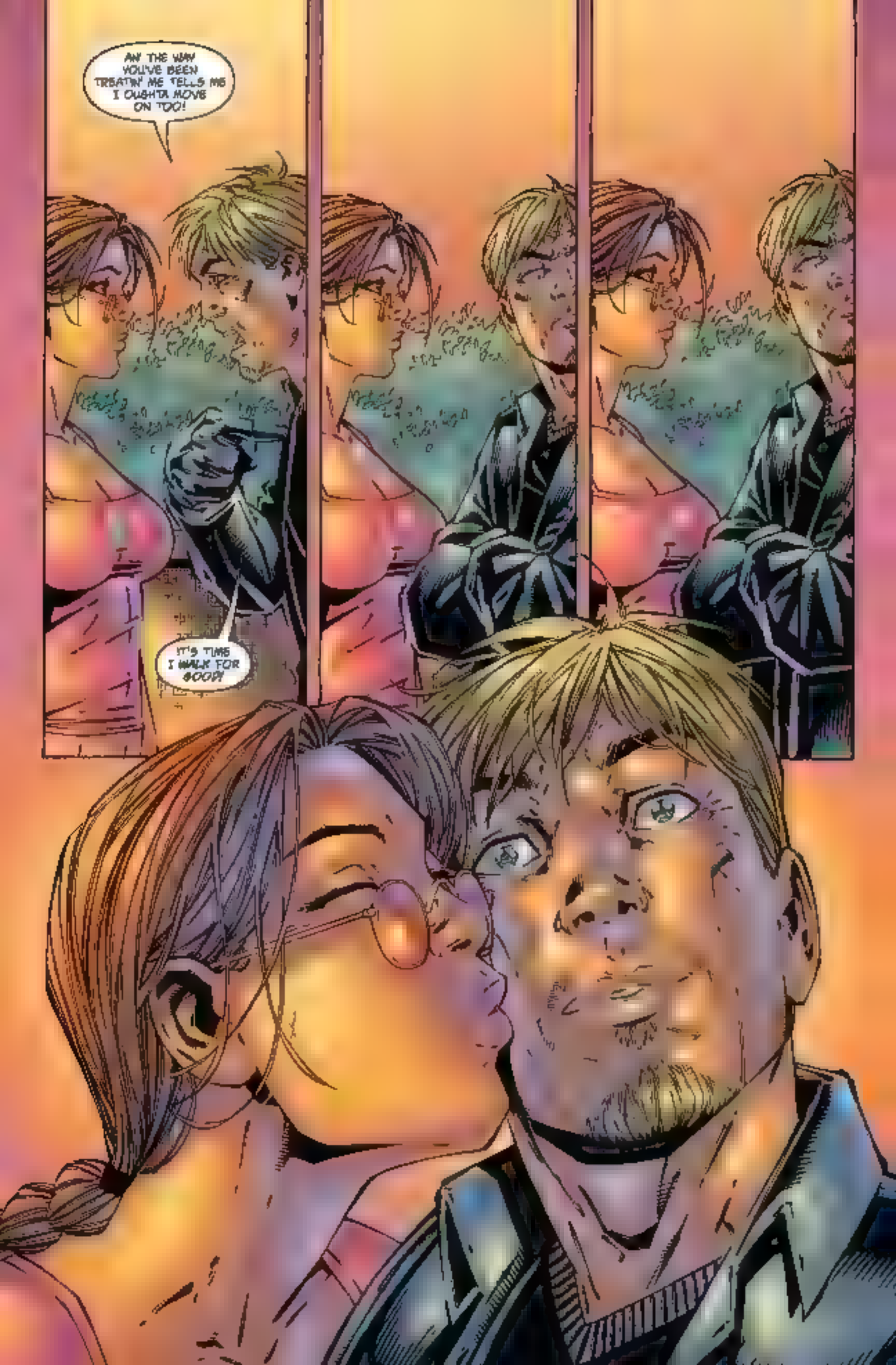
IT'S BLOODY HARD, TRYING TO FIND A PLACE TO SHOOT IN L.A.

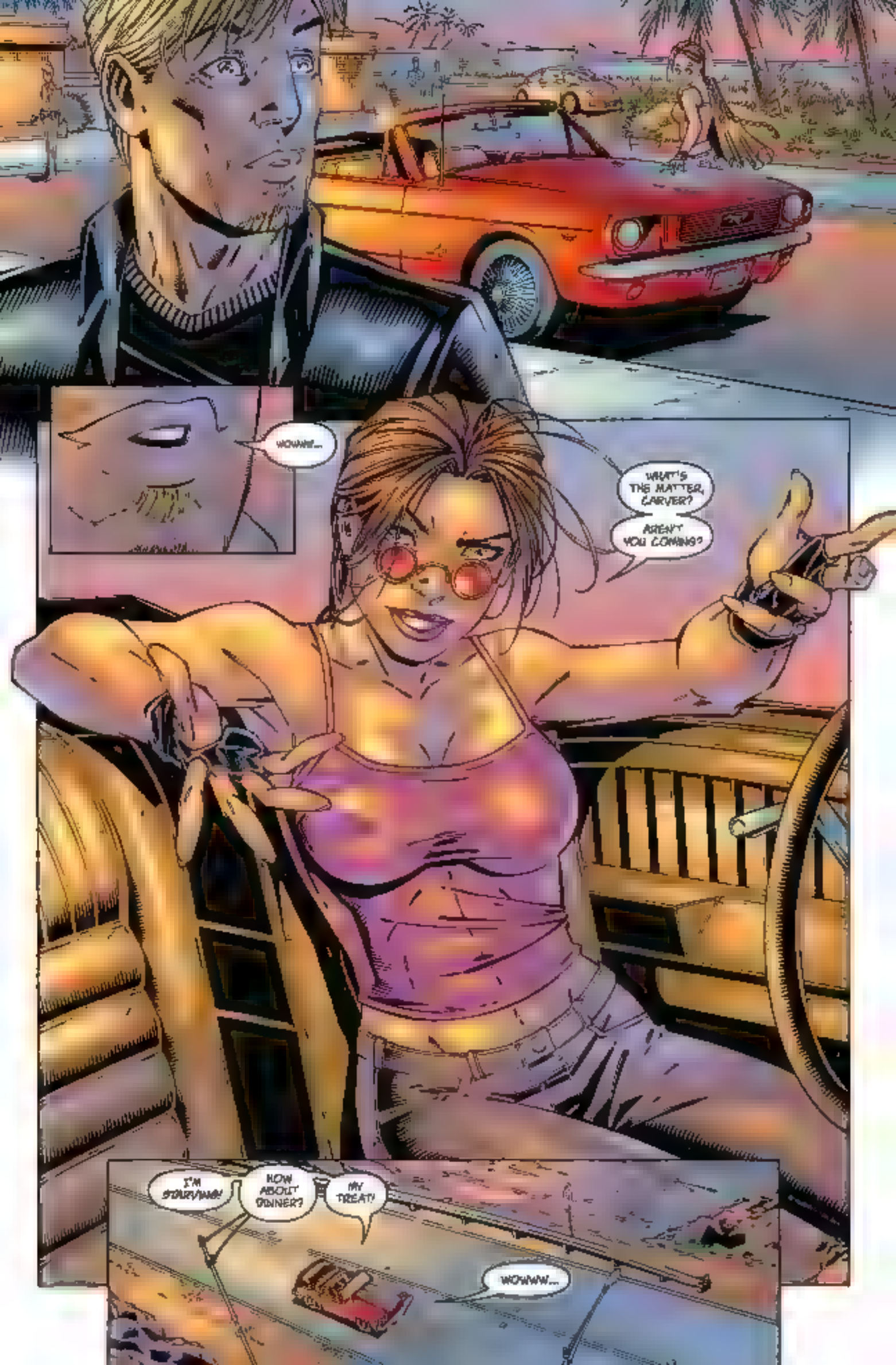
ANYTIME, LARA. THE GUYS AND I WOULD PAY TO SEE YOUR SHOW.

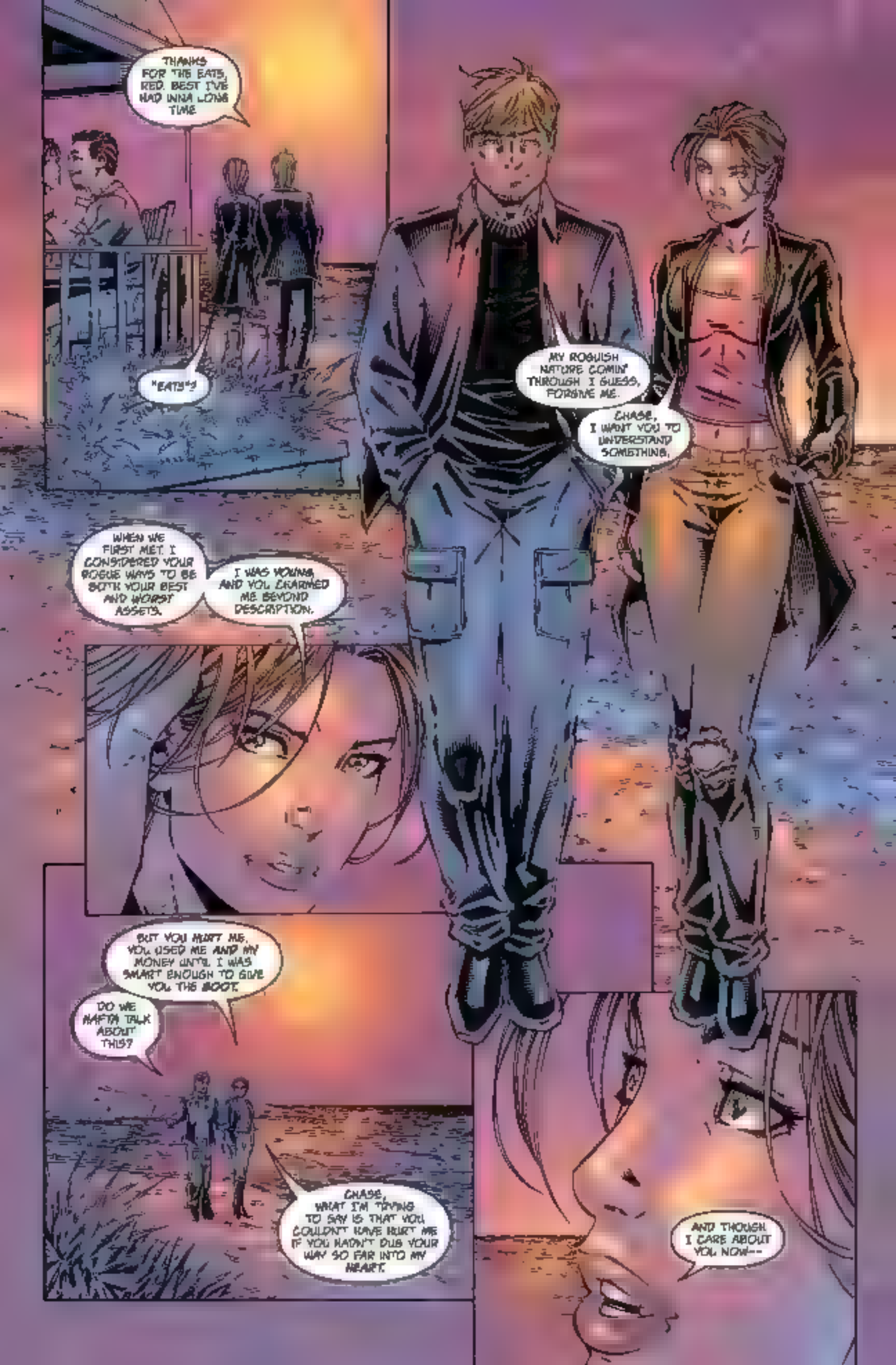
READY TO MOVE ON, CHASE?
IF THERE'S ONE THING I THOUGHT YOU KNEW ABOUT ME REE- -
--IS THAT I'M ALWAYS READY.
YYKNOW, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT WE'VE BEEN GETTIN' ALONG PRETTY WELL, LATELY.
I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A FEW JOBS--
--AND YOU HAVEN'T DUMPED ME, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF GETTING THE GOODIES ON YOUR OWN!
SO, I'VE BEEN WONDERING IF THERE'S ANY YOU KNOW...CHANCE.
AS A COUPLE.
CHASE, WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND REEL IN MY TARGET FOR ME?
THAT WE COULD GET TOGETHER AGAIN.

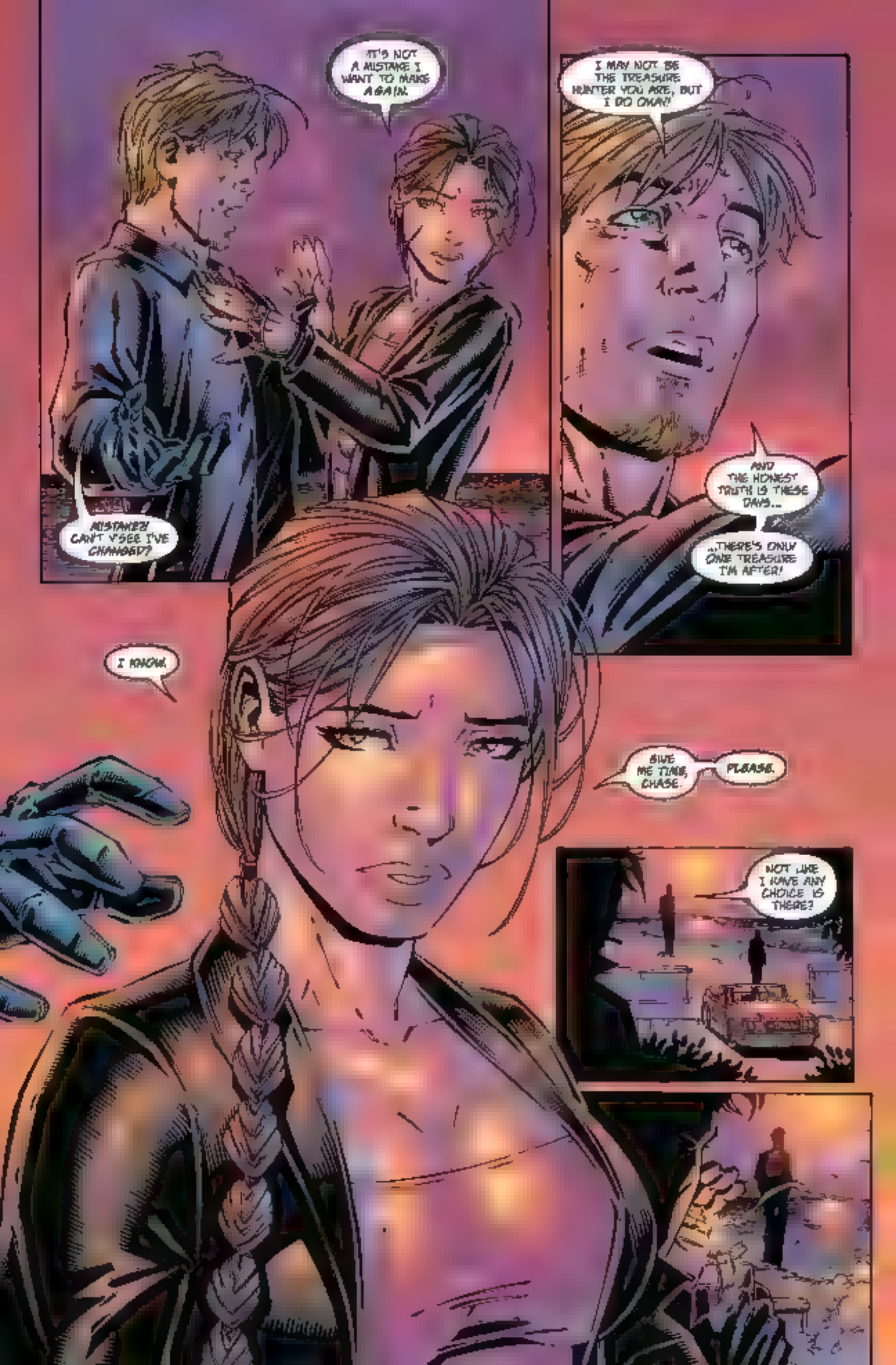

SURE THING, RED.
LISTEN, 'BOUT WHAT I WAS SAYING...
I WASN'T TRYING TO PUT TOO MUCH HEAT ON YOU, Y'KNOW?
THE LAST THING I'D WANT TO DO IS—
IS—

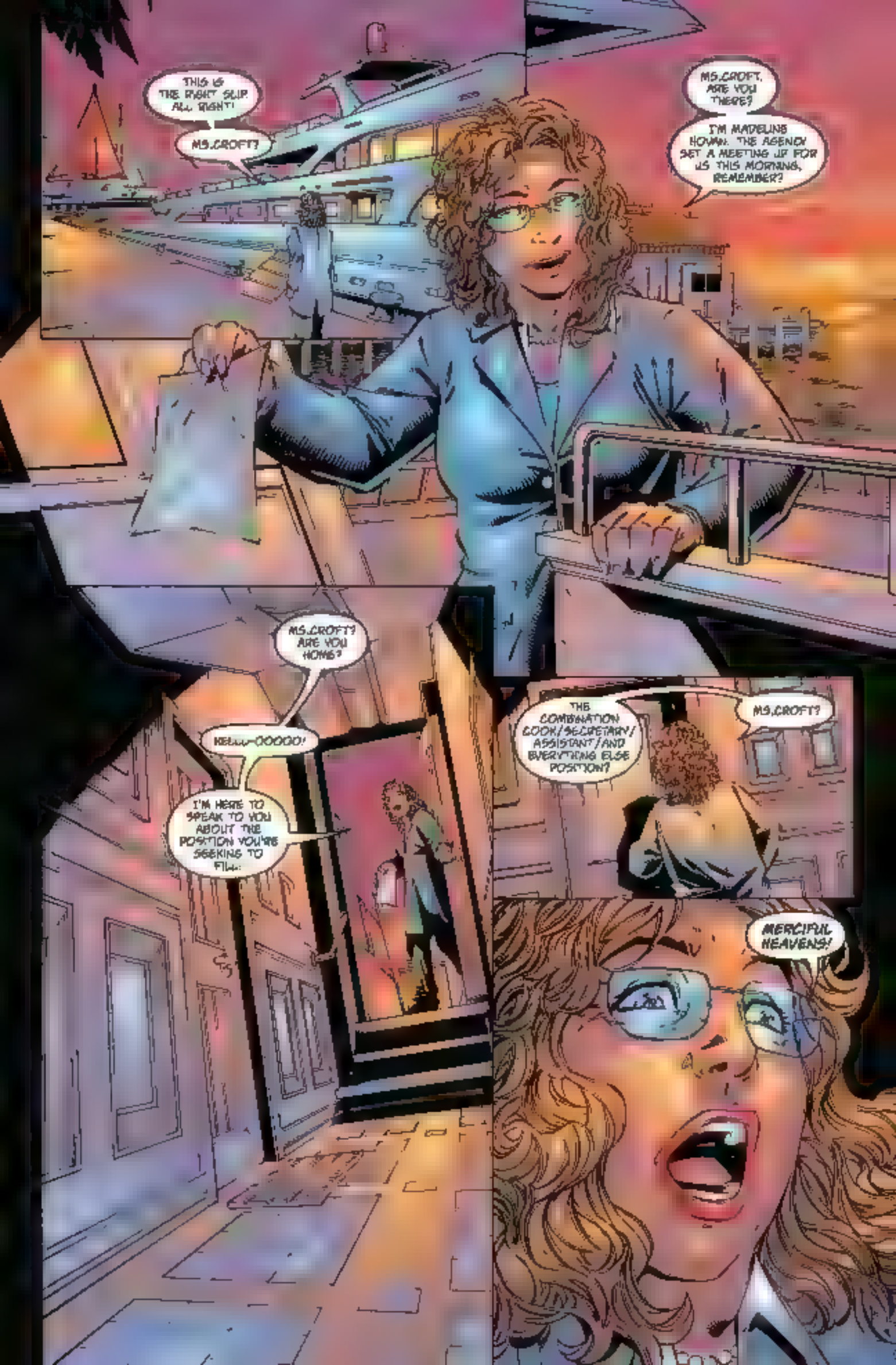

CROFT!
YOU WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME GIRL!
WAY TOO FAR!
I'VE BEEN PUTTIN' UP WITH YOUR INSULTS AND JABS FOR MONTHS!
IT ENDS NOW!
EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND, YOU GIVE ME A KICK IN THE BUTT ON ACCOUNTA WHAT WENT DOWN BETWEEN US YEARS AGO!
WELL, I'VE HAD IT!
THE PAST IS THE PAST, GIRL!
TIME MOVES ON!


AN' THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN TREATIN' ME TELLS ME I OUGHTA MOVE ON TOO!
IT'S TIME I WALK FOR GOOD!

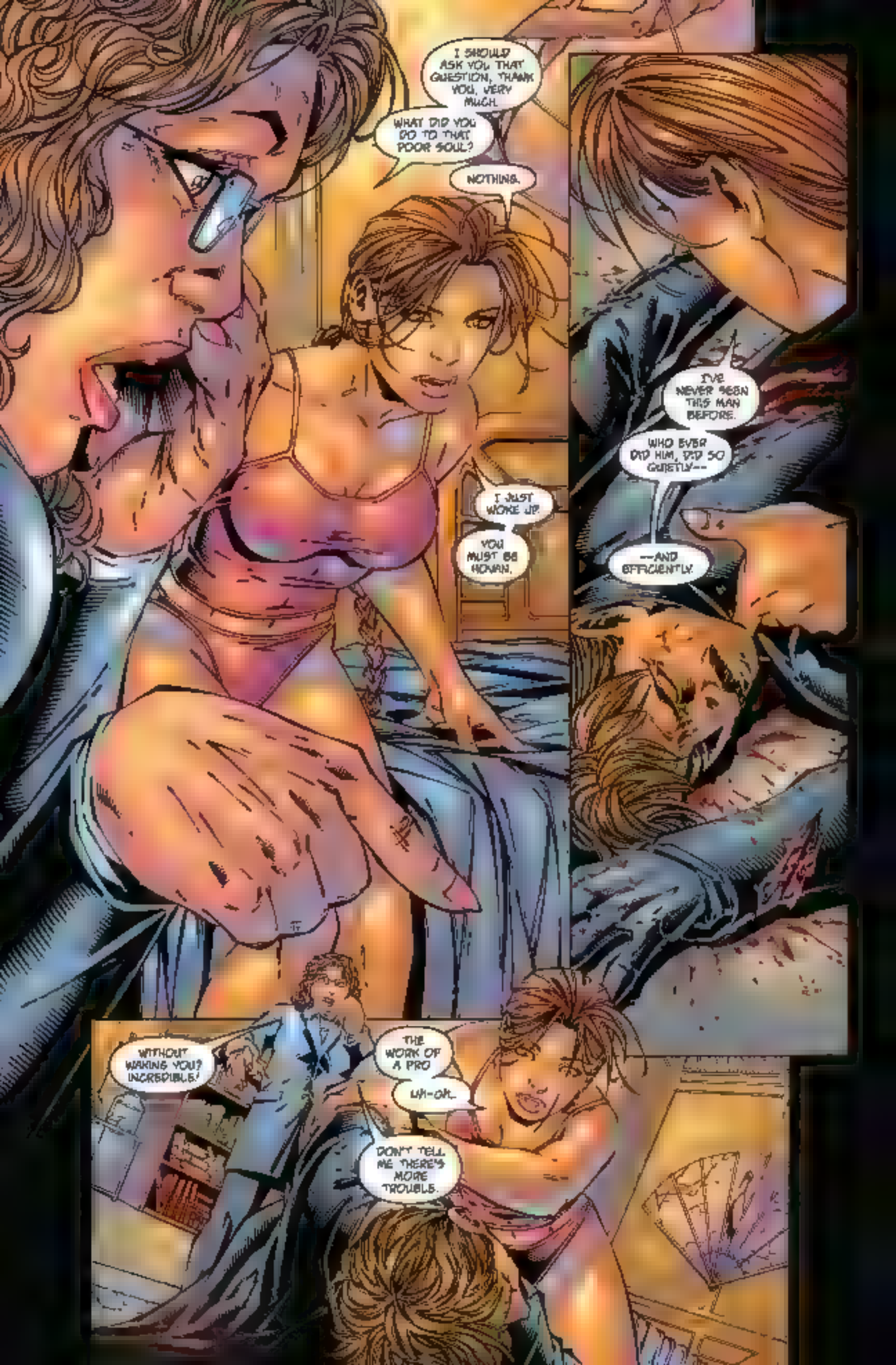

WOWWW...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CARVER?
AREN'T YOU COMING?
I'M STARVING!
HOW ABOUT DINNER?
MY TREAT!
WOWWW...


THANKS FOR THE EATS, RED. BEST I'VE HAD INNA LONG TIME.
"EATS"?
MY ROGUISH NATURE COMIN' THROUGH I GUESS, FORGIVE ME.
CHASE, I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING.
WHEN WE FIRST MET, I CONSIDERED YOUR ROGUE WAYS TO BE BOTH YOUR BEST AND WORST ASSETS.
I WAS YOUNG, AND YOU CHARMED ME BEYOND DESCRIPTION.
BUT YOU HURT ME. YOU USED ME AND MY MONEY UNTIL I WAS SMART ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU THE BOOT.
DO WE HAFTA TALK ABOUT THIS?
CHASE, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT YOU COULDN'T HAVE HURT ME IF YOU HADN'T DUG YOUR WAY SO FAR INTO MY HEART.
AND THOUGH I CARE ABOUT YOU NOW--


IT'S NOT A MISTAKE I WANT TO MAKE AGAIN.
MISTAKE?! CAN'T Y'SEE I'VE CHANGED?
I MAY NOT BE THE TREASURE HUNTER YOU ARE, BUT I DO OKAY!
AND THE HONEST TRUTH IS THESE DAYS...
...THERE'S ONLY ONE TREASURE I'M AFTER!
I KNOW.
GIVE ME TIME, CHASE.
PLEASE.
NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY CHOICE IS THERE?


THIS IS THE RIGHT SLIP. ALL RIGHT!
MS.CROFT?
MS.CROFT, ARE YOU THERE?
I'M MADELINE HOWARD. THE AGENCY SET A MEETING UP FOR US THIS MORNING, REMEMBER?
MS.CROFT? ARE YOU HOME?
KEEEE-OOOOO!
I'M HERE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE POSITION YOU'RE SEEKING TO FILL.
THE COMBINATION COOK/SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT/AND EVERYTHING ELSE POSITION?
MS.CROFT?
MERCIFUL HEAVENS!

TH-TH-THAT MAN!!
HE'S DEAD!
WHA—?
WHO—?
WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?


I SHOULD ASK YOU THAT QUESTION, THANK YOU, VERY MUCH.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THAT POOR SOUL?
NOTHING.
I JUST WOKE UP.
YOU MUST BE HUMAN.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MAN BEFORE.
WHO EVER DID HIM, DID SO QUIETLY--
--AND EFFICIENTLY.
WITHOUT WAKING YOU? INCREDIBLE!
THE WORK OF A PRO
UH-OH.
DON'T TELL ME THERE'S MORE TROUBLE.

THAT SYMBOL.
ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT THEY WERE A MYTH. A LEGEND!
BUT... THEY'RE REAL.
WHO?
WHAT LEGEND?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HE'S A MIDNIGHT SQUIRE.
WHISPERS AND RUMORS SAY THEY'RE A CONSORTIUM WHO DO MORE TO RUN THE WORLD THAN ANY BODY OF POLITICIANS.
THEY SAY THEY WERE BORN THE DAY THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS WRITTEN!
THAT'S IT! I'M CALLING 9-1-1!
WHAT'S THIS?
WAIT.
DON'T CALL ANYONE.

IT'S A MURDER!! WE HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE!
MS. HOWAN, IF YOU'RE GOING TO WORK FOR ME YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH SOME...UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
A DEAD BODY ON MY FIRST DAY OF WORK IS A LOT MORE THAN UNUSUAL!
MS. HOWAN, YOU COME WITH THE HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BEST EMPLOYMENT AGENCY IN THE WORLD.
OH, I'M NOT BACKING OUT, MS. CROFT CONSIDERING THE SITUATION THOUGH.
..MY PRICE JUST WENT UP FIFTY PERCENT.
IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THIS, TELL ME NOW.
DONE. ONTO THE NEXT MYSTERY.
THIS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE. WHAT IS IT AND HOW DID IT GET HERE?

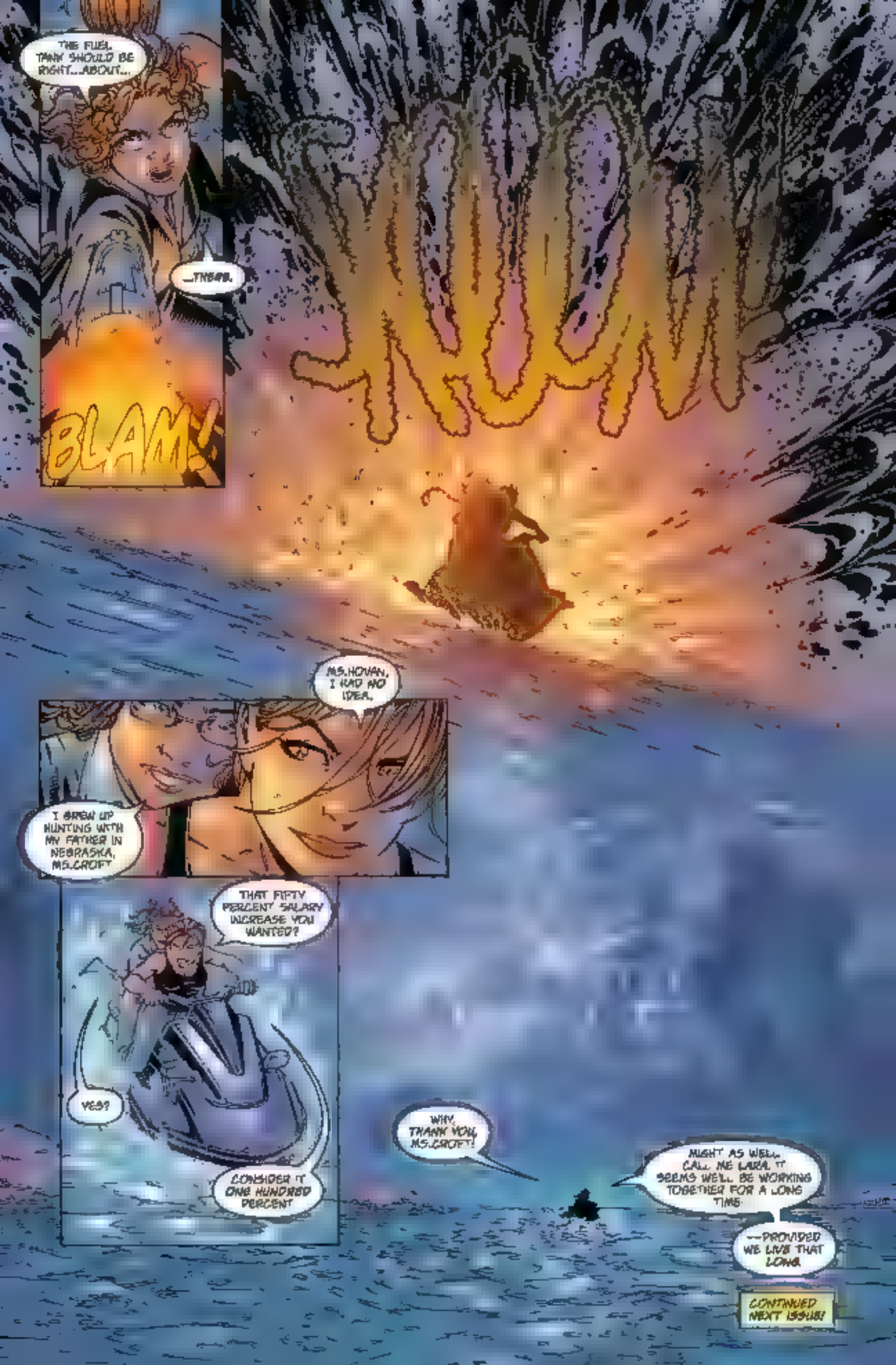
CREEEK
DID YOU HEAR—?
QUIET.
GET DOWN AND STAY DOWN!
IF ANYONE MOVES—
—DRILL 'EM!
JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HIT THE EYE OF SHAHARETTIN!

BRATTA-BRATTA-BRAT!
GYAH!!!
THEY HEARD--UHOH!
THEN I'LL HAVE TO BE SURE TO STAY STILL.
K-CHOW! K-CHOW! K-CHOW!
PULL BACK! PULL--AWOHK!

THIS WAY!
WHA—?
DOWN THE STAIRS!
WHAT IS THIS?
I SEE ENOUGH TROUBLE TO KNOW I NEED A QUICK WAY OUT.
WAIT HERB.
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO GET
STUPID
A GRENADE!!!
BIG TOYS FOR LITTLE BOYS!

BWHOOM!
WE- WE'RE DOOMED!
NOT YET. KEEP MOVING.
HOP ON, MADELINE. IT'S EITHER THAT OR FIRE.
WE'RE IN LUCK.
IT'S INTACT AND UNHARMED.
YOU'RE THE BOSS!
AND YOU LOOK LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, EXPERIENCES LIKE THIS AREN'T NEW TO ME.

I BELIEVE YOU, I BELIEVE YOU!
I'M IMPRESSED, MS. CROFT!
LET'S MAKE SURE WE GET OUR BUTTS OUT OF THE FIRE BEFORE WE MAKE ASSUMPTIONS.
WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY DO TO STOP US NOW?
K-CHOW!
K-CHOWWWW!
I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME
CAN'T YOU SHOOT THEM OR SOMETHING?
IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, I'M BUSY!


THE FUEL TANK SHOULD BE RIGHT...ABOUT...
...THERE.
BLAM!
MS.HOVAN, I HAD NO IDEA.
I GREW UP HUNTING WITH MY FATHER IN NEBRASKA, MS.CROFT
THAT FIFTY PERCENT SALARY INCREASE YOU WANTED?
YES?
CONSIDER IT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT
WHY, THANK YOU, MS.CROFT!
MIGHT AS WELL CALL ME LARA. IT SEEMS WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME.
--PROVIDED WE LIVE THAT LONG.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

JD SMITH

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JONATHAN D. SMITH

MANHATTAN.
11:59:42 P.M.
RULE THE WORLD, TURN BY TURN --
11:59:56 P.M.
-- AFTER THE FIRE --
-- EMBRACE THE BURN --
11:59:59 P.M.
-- A MIDNIGHT SQUIRE!

THE COMMITTEE IS ASSEMBLED?

YES, SIR.

VERY WELL.

SHORT OF A DECLARATION OF WAR, WE ARE NOT TO BE DISTURBED.

YES, SIR, MR. ROETEH!

BE CLEAR AND CONCISE.

WHY DID WE FAIL?

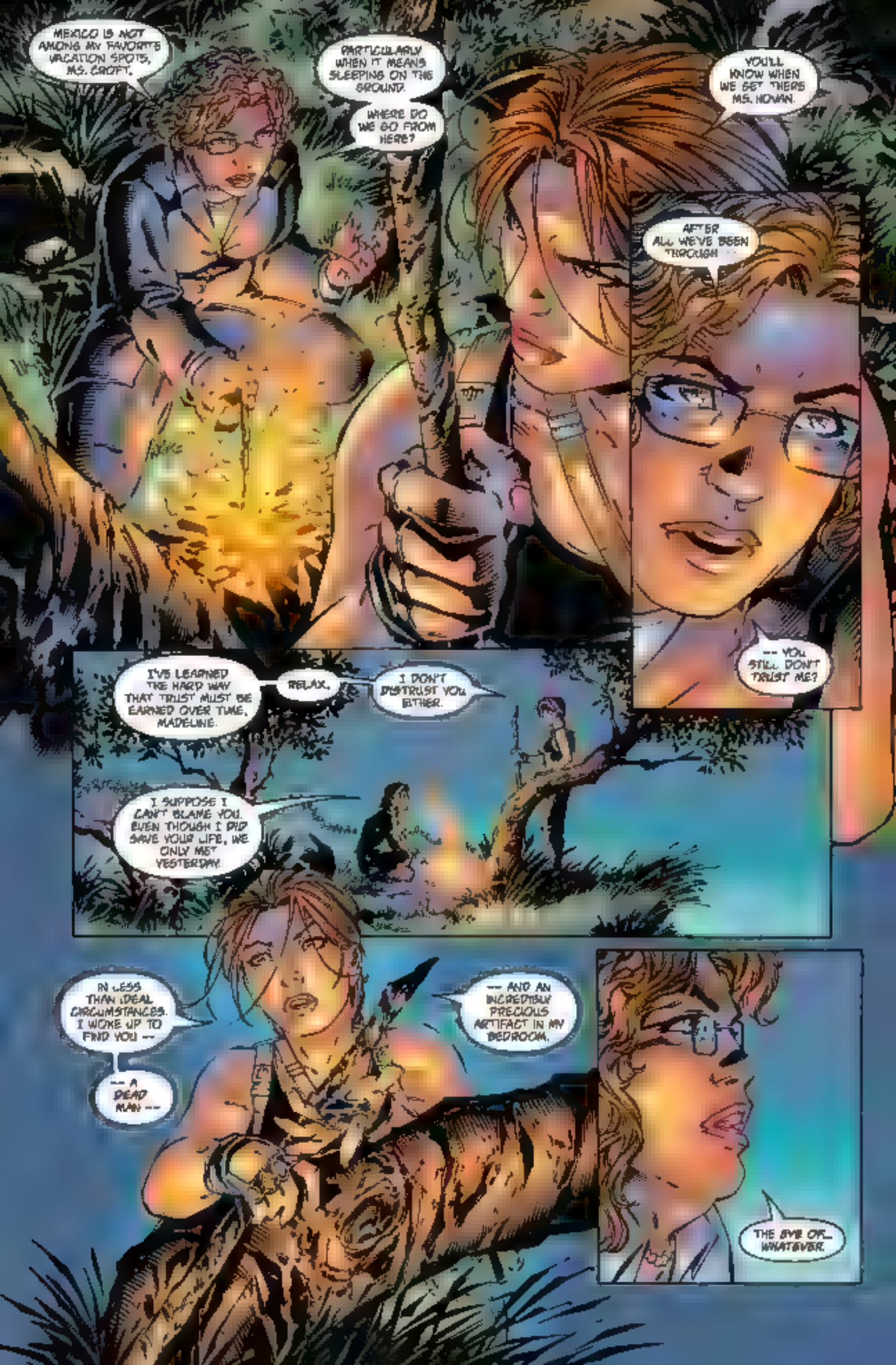
BECAUSE WE ENCOUNTERED SOMEONE WHOSE RESOURCEFULNESS IS ALMOST INDESCRIBABLE.

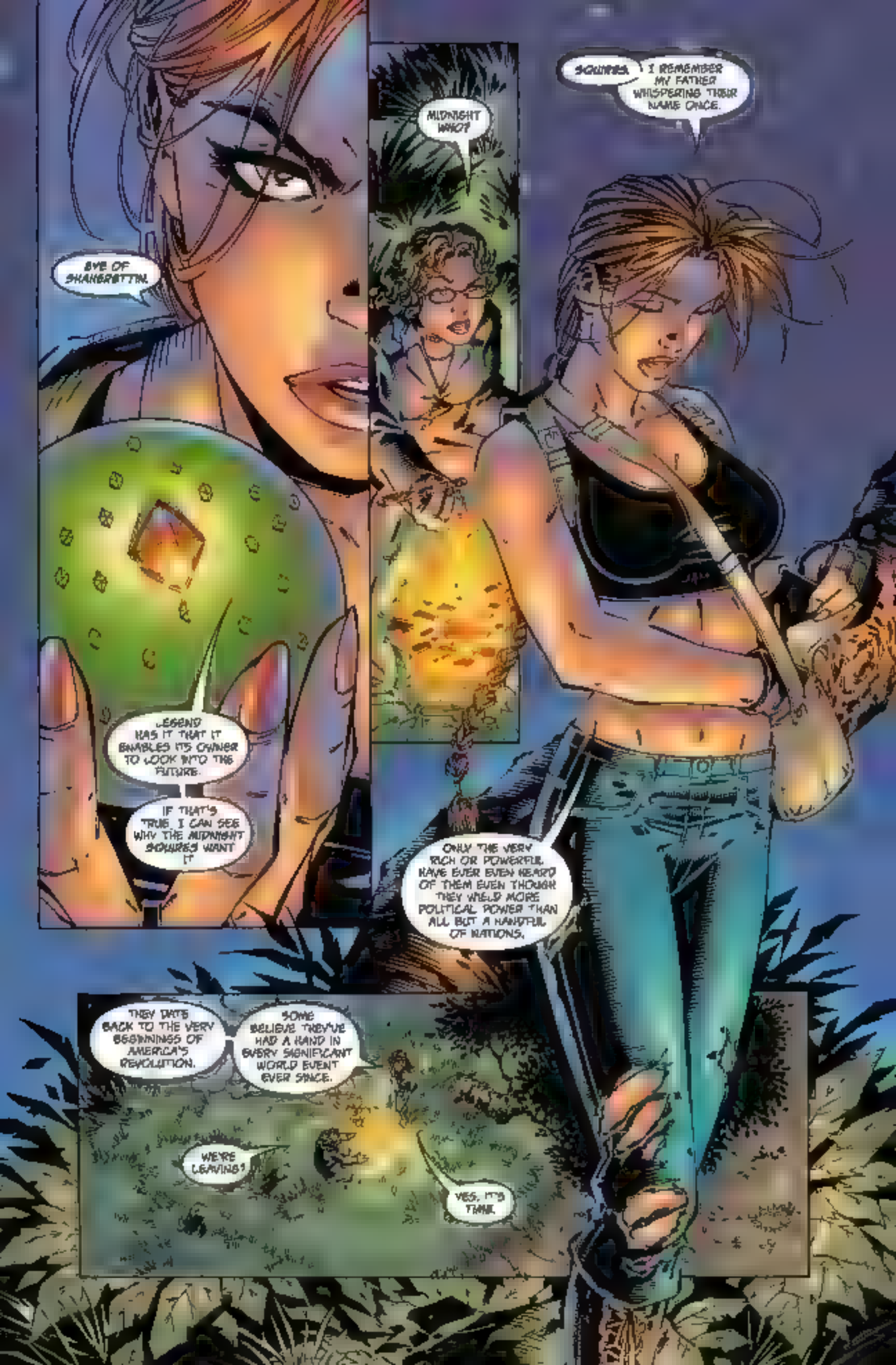
LARA CROFT.

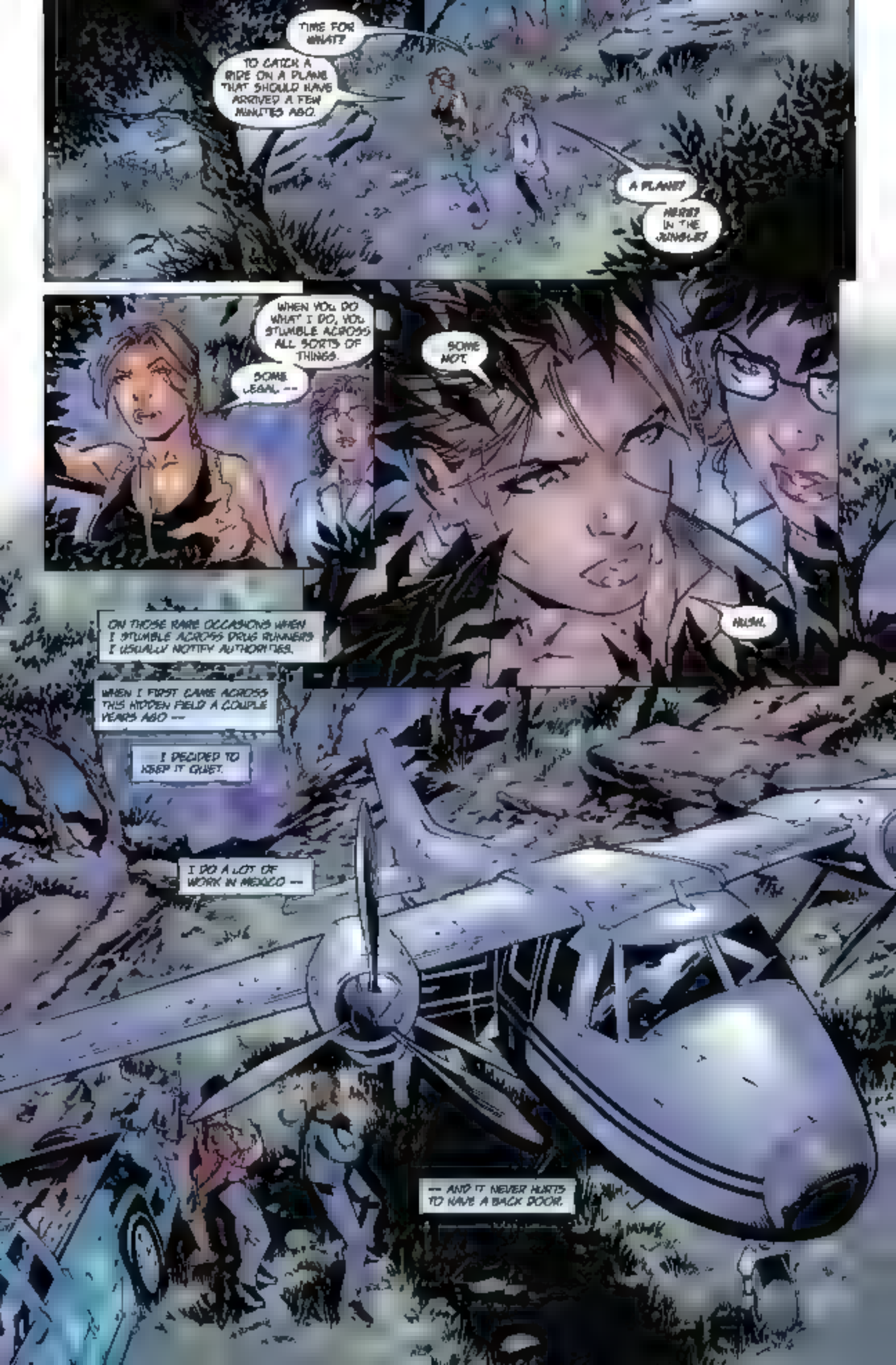
MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN THE MIDNIGHT SOJOURER?
ARE YOU DRUNK?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF LORD HENSHINGLY CROFT. SINCE HER FAMILY'S DEATH SHE'S SPECIALIZED IN THE ACQUISITION OF PRIZED ARTIFACTS WORLD WIDE.
GOVERNMENT DATA BANKS ARE FILLED WITH REFERENCES TO HER VARIOUS ACTIVITIES —
— BUT ALMOST DEVOID OF CONCRETE FACTS.
NO CENTRALIZED BASE OF OPERATIONS. SHE ENJOYS MULTINATIONAL RESIDENCY PERMITS AND SEEMS TO LIVE LIFE ON THE RUN.
HOW DID SHE GET THE EYE OF SHAHERETTIN?
PARTICULARLY WHEN IT WAS IN OUR GRASP?!
HOW DID SHE ESCAPE US?
UNKNOWN. OUR AGENTS ON THE SCENE ARE DEAD.
I WILL NOT ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT A LONE WOMAN CAN EVADE US!

SINCE THE MOMENT THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS SIGNED, THE MIDNIGHT SQUIRES HAVE EXISTED AS A POWER —
— A NATION UNTO OURSELVES!
WE HAVE EXCALIBUR!
WE HAVE THE CROSS CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED ON!
HITLER'S BODY IS OURS, AS IS THE REAL MURDER WEAPON OF JFK!
BUT WE WOULD TRADE ALL OF THAT FOR THE EYE OF SHAMBRETTIN!
IT OFFERS POWER.
IMMORTALITY!
THE ABILITY TO SEE FUTURE EVENTS!
SUMMON THE ELITE FIRE UNIT!
TELL THEM I WANT THE EYE IN MY HANDS —
— AND LARA CROFT DEAD!

I'M LARA CROFT. IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING, I GO AFTER IT.
MADELINE HEYMAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN ASSISTANT AND SECRETARY. INSTEAD, SHE'S BECOME SOMEONE I HAVE TO KEEP ALIVE.
THE EYE OF SHAKERET'EN IS SOMETHING I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF BUT SO MANY PEOPLE WANT IT —
— THAT ITS VALUE IS OBVIOUSLY INCALCULABLE.
DEAD CENTER


MEXICO IS NOT AMONG MY FAVORITE VACATION SPOTS, MS. CROFT.
PARTICULARLY WHEN IT MEANS SLEEPING ON THE GROUND.
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN WE GET THERE MS. HOWARD.
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH
-- YOU STILL DON'T TRUST ME?
I'VE LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT TRUST MUST BE EARNED OVER TIME, MADELINE.
RELAX.
I DON'T DISTRUST YOU EITHER.
I SUPPOSE I CAN'T BLAME YOU. EVEN THOUGH I DID SAVE YOUR LIFE, WE ONLY MET YESTERDAY.
IN LESS THAN IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES. I WOKE UP TO FIND YOU --
-- A DEAD MAN --
-- AND AN INCREDIBLY PRECIOUS ARTIFACT IN MY BEDROOM.
THE EVE OF... WHATEVER.


EYE OF SHAHABETTIN.
LEGEND HAS IT THAT IT ENABLES ITS OWNER TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE.
IF THAT'S TRUE, I CAN SEE WHY THE MIDNIGHT SQUIRES WANT IT.
MIDNIGHT WHO?
SQUIRES. I REMEMBER MY FATHER WHISPERING THEIR NAME ONCE.
ONLY THE VERY RICH OR POWERFUL HAVE EVER EVEN HEARD OF THEM EVEN THOUGH THEY WIELD MORE POLITICAL POWER THAN ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF NATIONS.
THEY DATE BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNINGS OF AMERICA'S REVOLUTION.
SOME BELIEVE THEY'VE HAD A HAND IN EVERY SIGNIFICANT WORLD EVENT EVER SINCE.
WE'RE LEAVING?
YES, IT'S TIME.


TIME FOR WHAT?
TO CATCH A RIDE ON A PLANE THAT SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED A FEW MINUTES AGO.
A PLANE?
HERE? IN THE JUNGLE?
WHEN YOU DO WHAT I DO, YOU STUMBLE ACROSS ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
SOME LEGAL --
SOME NOT.
HUSH.
ON THOSE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN I STUMBLE ACROSS DRUG RUNNERS I USUALLY NOTIFY AUTHORITIES.
WHEN I FIRST CAME ACROSS THIS HIDDEN FIELD A COUPLE YEARS AGO --
I DECIDED TO KEEP IT QUIET.
I DO A LOT OF WORK IN MEXICO --
-- AND IT NEVER HURTS TO HAVE A BACK DOOR.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK--!
LISTEN.
EX-CUUUUUSE ME!
HELLL-LOOOO!
WHAT THE—?
SHE'S AMERICAN D.E.A.!*
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT SILLY ME, I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY WAY!
ANY CHANCE YOU GENTLEMEN COULD POINT ME TOWARD MEXICO CITY?
*DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

MEF
D.E.A.? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
KILL HER!
I'M LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE.
ANY EXCUSE.
BE SMART.
DON'T GIVE ME ONE
EASY, BOYS.
DO HER!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
NOT A SINGLE RHODES SCHOLAR IN THE BUNCH.
I'M STUNNED.

MS. NOMAN'S APPEARANCE GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE IN BEHIND THEM.

WITHOUT HER I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE.

THE CHANCE ISN'T THE GREATEST

BUT IT'S ENOUGH.

THE TWO SECONDS IT TAKES TO SETTLE IT SEEMS MORE LIKE TWO HOURS.

BUT WHEN IT'S OVER, WE HAVE A RIDE.

I WILL NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT AGAIN!

HERE'S HOPING YOU WON'T HAVE TO.

LET'S GO.

FINALLY! THE POLICE!

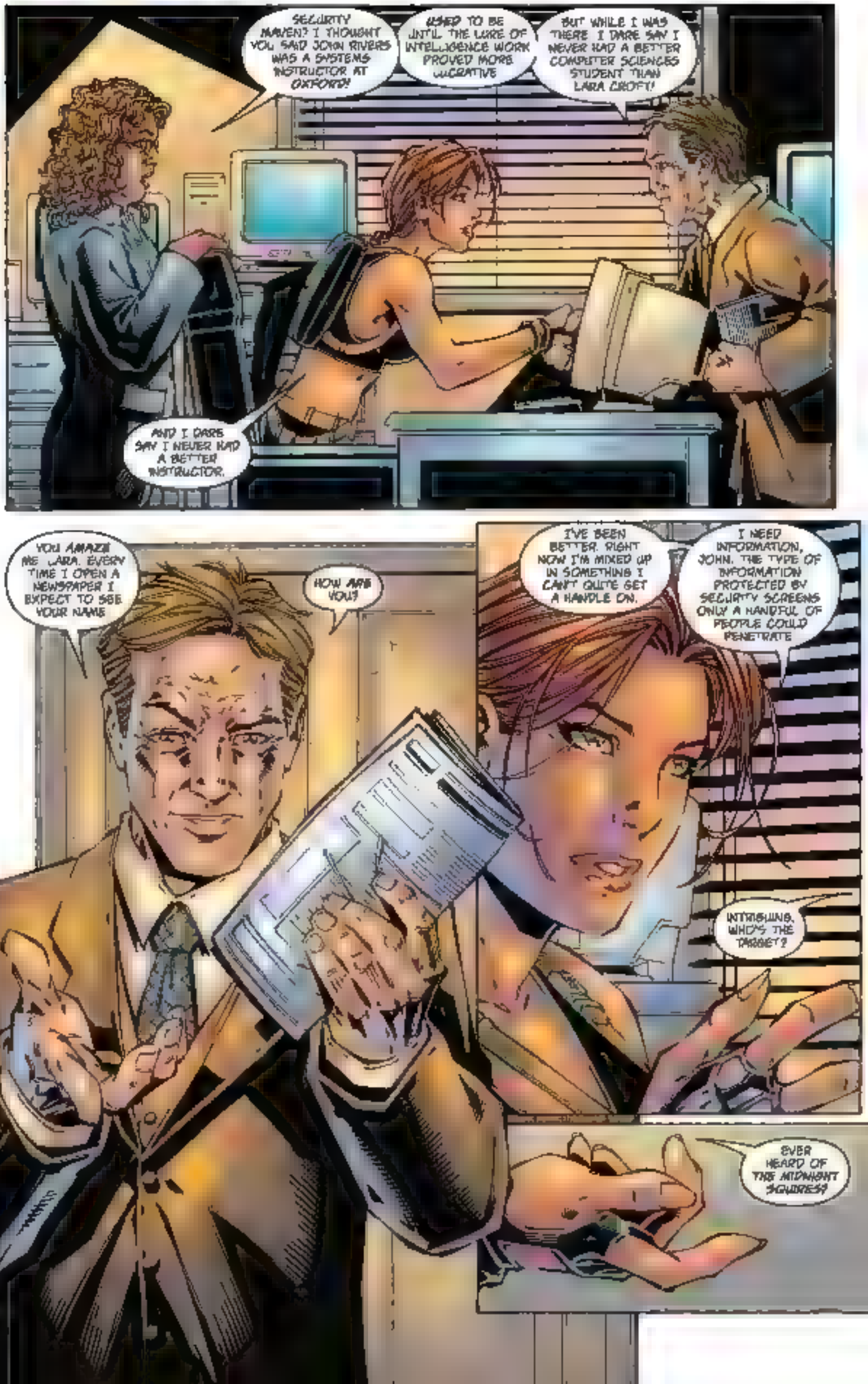
NOT THE POLICE.

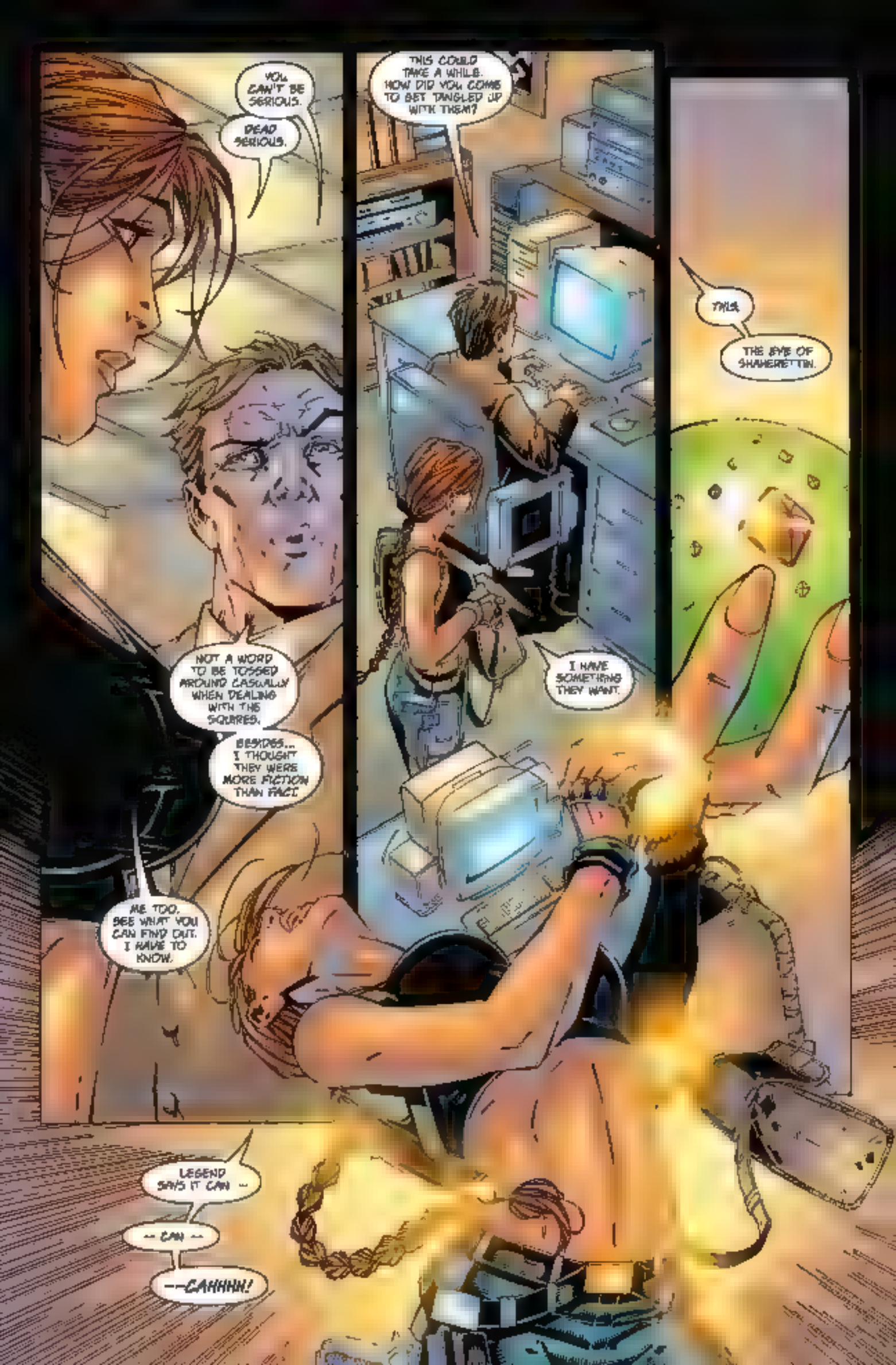
SOMEONE BETTER.

MAY I SEE THE ---
OH! WHAT'S THIS?
WHY...IT'S EXQUISITE!
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
THAT'S MY MOTHER.
SCULPTED IN HER YOUNGER DAYS... BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN.
BEFORE... SHE AND MY FATHER DIED.
LARA, YOU'RE SO YOUNG, SO BEAUTIFUL...
WHAT KIND OF LIFE IS THIS?
WHY DON'T YOU SETTLE DOWN AND HAVE A FAMILY OF YOUR OWN?
I WAS ENGAGED ONCE.
THE PLANE CRASH THAT TOOK MY PARENTS TOOK HIM AS WELL...
I SURVIVED. EVER SINCE, I KNEW I HAD TO GET MORE OUT OF LIFE.
AND THERE HASN'T BEEN ANYONE... NOT EVEN ONE MAN SINCE!

...
NO.
NOT REALLY
OUR PROFILER JUST CONCLUDED HIS ANALYSIS OF LARA CROFT, MR ROSTEK
HE'S DRAWN UP A LIST OF HER POSSIBLE NEXT MOVES.
I ASSUME SHE'LL APPROACH THE AUTHORITIES.
NOT THE ONES YOU MIGHT EXPECT. THE PROFILER CONSIDERS HER SOMETHING OF A CREATIVE ROGUE, THOUGH ONE WHO GENERALLY OPERATES WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE LAW.
WHEN SHE RECOVERS A PRECIOUS ARTIFACT SHE RARELY USES IT TO ENHANCE HER PERSONAL WEALTH AND MOST OFTEN DONATES IT TO A MUSEUM.
SHE ENJOYS SOLID WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.
THREE OF THEM, ALONG WITH THE LIKELY CONTACT PERSON, HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.
NONE OF THEM POLICE. YOU'RE RIGHT, SHE IS CREATIVE.
DISPATCH AN ELITE SQUAD TO EACH LOCATION.
PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO WASHINGTON. BUT INSTINCT TELLS ME

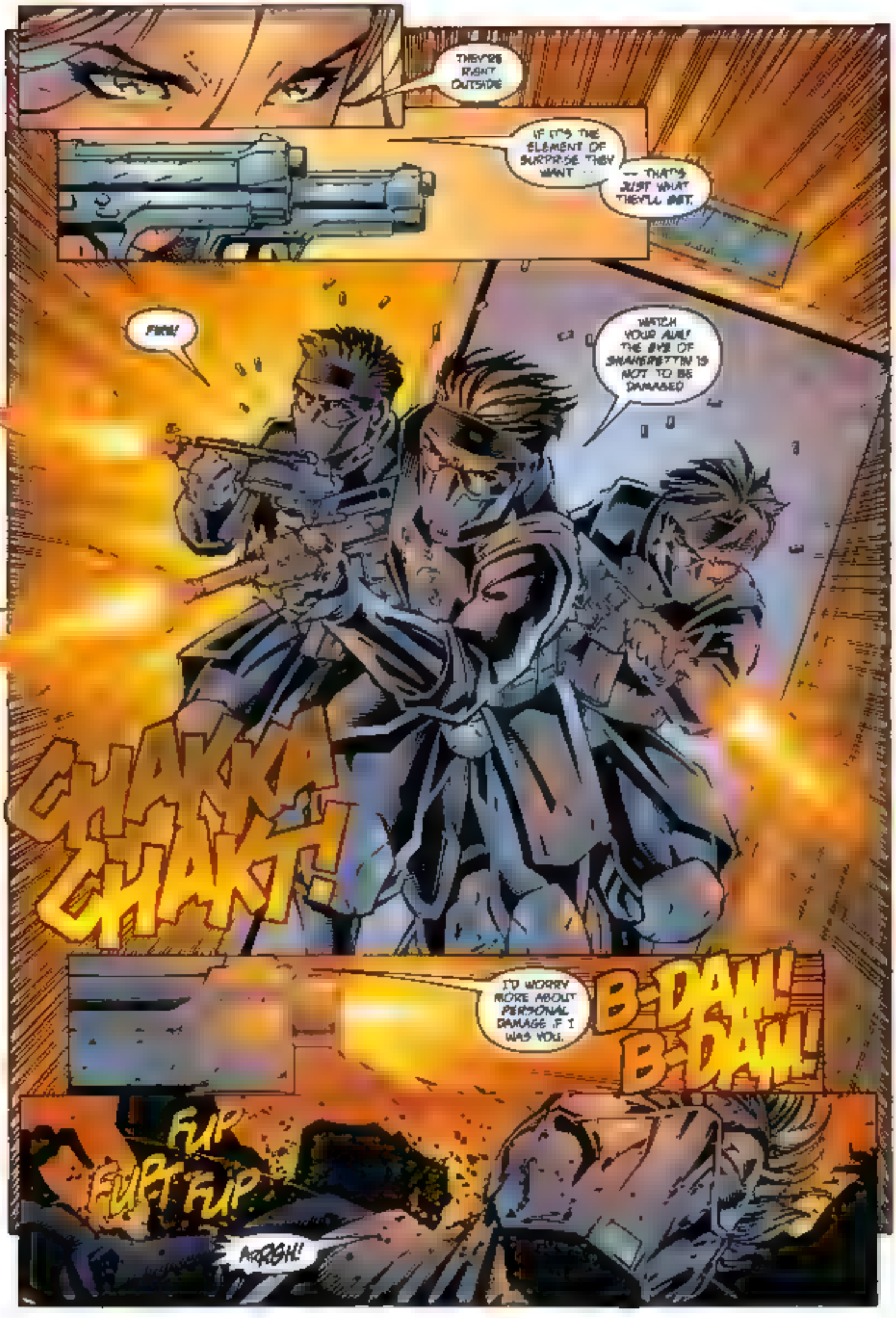
"— THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND HER."
COFFEE, MR. RIVERS?
I'LL NEED IT, JOAN. ANOTHER DAY IN THE BUREAUCRATIC SWAMP CHARTING SECURITY SYSTEMS IS GONE TO MAKE FOR A LONG, GRINDING DAY.
AND PROBABLY A LONG NIGHT, AS WELL.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS DAY A BIT DIFFERENT, MATE.
HOLA—!
LARA!
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TEACH.
THOUGH I MUST ADMIT THAT I'M DISAPPOINTED.
BREAKING INTO THE OFFICE OF A SECURITY MAVEN LIKE YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.


SECURITY MAVEN? I THOUGHT YOU SAID JOHN RIVERS WAS A SYSTEMS INSTRUCTOR AT OXFORD!
USED TO BE UNTIL THE LURE OF INTELLIGENCE WORK PROVED MORE LUCRATIVE
BUT WHILE I WAS THERE I DARE SAY I NEVER HAD A BETTER COMPUTER SCIENCES STUDENT THAN LARA CROFT!
AND I DARE SAY I NEVER HAD A BETTER INSTRUCTOR.
YOU AMAZE ME LARA. EVERY TIME I OPEN A NEWSPAPER I EXPECT TO SEE YOUR NAME
HOW ARE YOU?
I'VE BEEN BETTER. RIGHT NOW I'M MIXED UP IN SOMETHING I CAN'T QUITE GET A HANDLE ON.
I NEED INFORMATION, JOHN. THE TYPE OF INFORMATION PROTECTED BY SECURITY SCREENS ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE COULD PENETRATE
INTRIGUING. WHO'S THE TARGET?
EVER HEARD OF THE MIDNIGHT SQUIRES?


YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
DEAD SERIOUS.
THIS COULD TAKE A WHILE. HOW DID YOU COME TO GET TANGLED UP WITH THEM?
THIS.
THE EYE OF SHAHERETTIN.
I HAVE SOMETHING THEY WANT.
NOT A WORD TO BE TOSSED AROUND CASUALLY WHEN DEALING WITH THE SQUARES.
BESIDES... I THOUGHT THEY WERE MORE FICTION THAN FACT.
ME TOO. SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT. I HAVE TO KNOW.
LEGEND SAYS IT CAN --
-- CAN --
--CAHHHH!

THEY'RE HERE!
THE SQUIRES ARE HERE!
LARA, DON'T BE SILLY! THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT US!
NO...
I COULD SEE THEM. THE EYE SHOWED ME WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
THEY'RE GOING TO COME BURSTING IN ANY SECOND!

AND I DON'T INTEND TO BE HERE WHEN THEY ARRIVE
LARA! IF YOU BREAK THAT WINDOW I'LL BE IN SO MUCH TROUBLE THAT
SKRASSSSH!
IT'S BETTER THAN BEING DEAD, JOHN!
GRAB YOUR LAPTOP AND GO!
BUT...!
THE ONLY BUTT I CARE ABOUT IS YOURS - GOING OUT THE WINDOW!


THEY'RE RIGHT OUTSIDE
IF IT'S THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE THEY WANT...
-- THAT'S JUST WHAT THEY'LL GET.
FIRE!
WATCH YOUR AIM! THE EYE OF SHAHERETTIN IS NOT TO BE DAMAGED
CHAKA CHAKA!
I'D WORRY MORE ABOUT PERSONAL DAMAGE IF I WAS YOU.
B-DAM! B-DAM!
FUP FUP FUP
KRRSH!

WHERE'S YOUR CAR?
THAT WAY!
BUT I DON'T THINK IT WILL MATTER!
MERCIFUL HEAVENS!
ON THE COUNT OF THREE -- FIRE!
AND SHOOT TO KILL!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

DEAD CENTER PART 3

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
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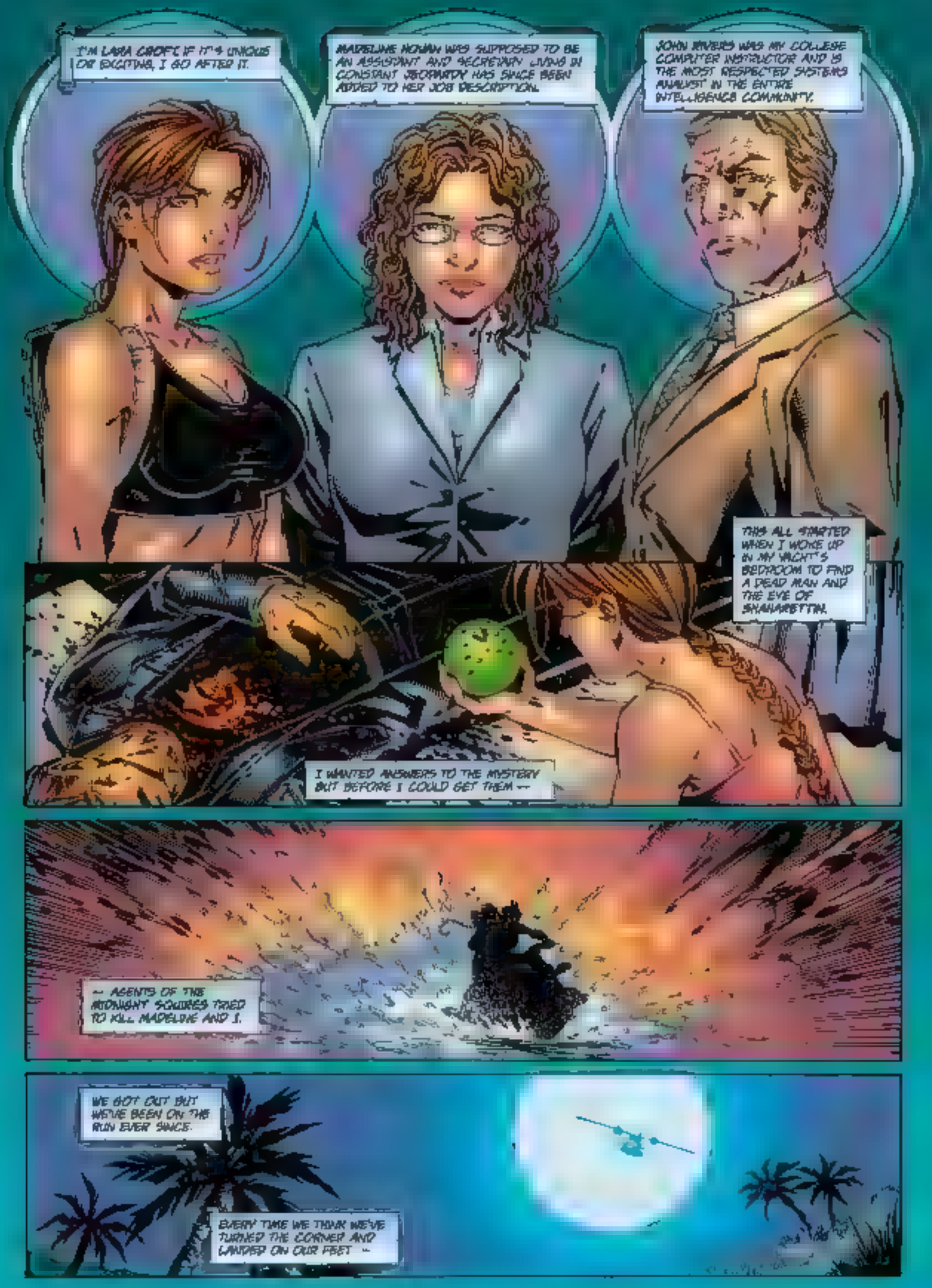

I'M LARA CROFT. IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING, I GO AFTER IT.
MADELINE NOMAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN ASSISTANT AND SECRETARY. LIVING IN CONSTANT JEOPARDY HAS SINCE BEEN ADDED TO HER JOB DESCRIPTION.
JOHN RIVERS WAS MY COLLEGE COMPUTER INSTRUCTOR AND IS THE MOST RESPECTED SYSTEMS ANALYST IN THE ENTIRE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.
THIS ALL STARTED WHEN I WOKE UP IN MY YACHT'S BEDROOM TO FIND A DEAD MAN AND THE EYE OF SHAMABETTIN.
I WANTED ANSWERS TO THE MYSTERY BUT BEFORE I COULD GET THEM --
-- AGENTS OF THE MIDNIGHT SCORPIONS TRIED TO KILL MADELINE AND I.
WE GOT OUT BUT WE'VE BEEN ON THE RUN EVER SINCE.
EVERY TIME WE THINK WE'VE TURNED THE CORNER AND LANDED ON OUR FEET --

-- WE FIND OUT OTHERWISE.

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES. ONE: SURRENDER YOUR WEAPONS AND COME QUIETLY.

TWO: TAKE ANY COURSE AND WE SHOOT UNTIL OUR CLIPS ARE EMPTY.

LADY, I DON'T THINK THEY'RE BLUFFING

THAT MAKES TWO OF US, MADELINE

EASY. YOU WIN.
"SAFETY" YOUR WEAPONS.
YOU DON'T GIVE THE ORDERS HERE HON. WE DO
WATCH THE HANDS, CREEP. I'M OFF LIMITS.
GIRL I CONSIDER YOU OFF LINE. AFTER ALL. --
- YOU'VE GOT ABOUT AN HOUR LEFT TOPS.
INTO THE BACK OF THE TRUCK, PEOPLE.
WE'RE GOING FOR A RIDE.

CHECK HER BAG. WE DON'T WANT HER PULLING A WEAPON ON US.
THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO DO THIS!
THESE GUNS ARE ALL THE AUTHORIZATION WE NEED.
LET'S HAVE IT, SWEET CHEEKS!
NOT A CHANCE.
EVVY!
YOU'RE THE ONE TAKIN' THE CHANCE, SHELV! MAKE ME TOO MAD --
-- AND YOUR DEATH WILL BE AS SLOW AND PAINFUL AS I CAN POSSIBLY MAKE IT!
EVVY, PAL! HOW 'BOUT A FIVER FER OLD PADDY?
WHAT THE--?
THIS AREA IS SUPPOSED TO BE SECURE!
IT IS! I MAKES SURE TA KEEP ALL THE BUMS OUTTA HERE. Y'KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

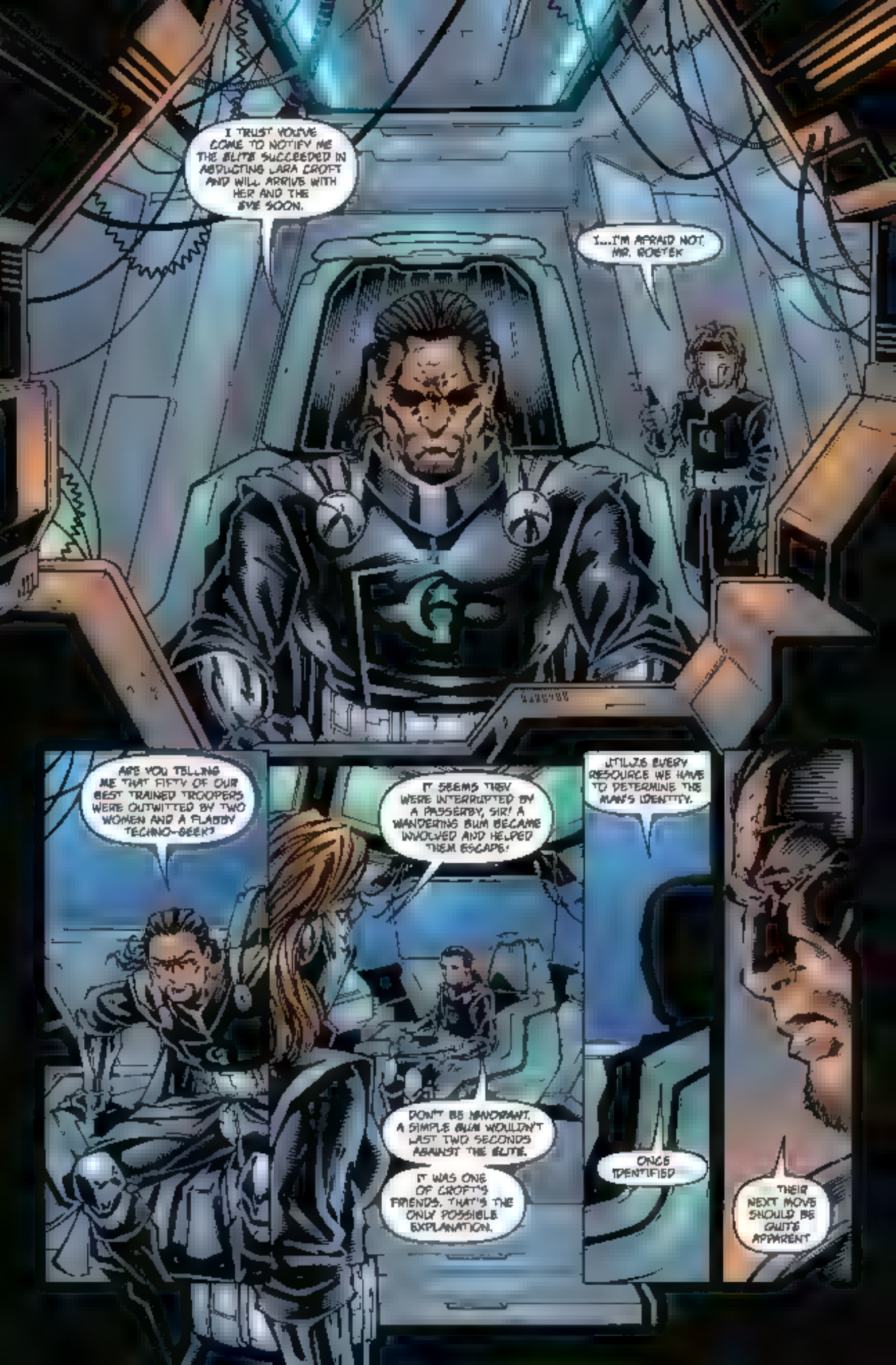
THAT VOICE—!
FIVE CAPS BUSTED IN YOUR BUTT IS WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET FOR INTERFERING IN SQUARE BUSINESS!
UHF! AH, SH—!
C'MON, MAN!
FINE DRESSED GENTLEMAN LIKE YERSELF. WHY, YOU GOTTA HAVE A FIVER YOU CAN SPARE FOR PADDY!
AT LEAST A SINGLE OR TWO?
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE DEAD!
YOU'RE RIGHT. ONE OF US IS.

BUT IT WON'T ME.
WHAT'RE YOU—!
SAMPLE I TAKE YOUR WEAPON—
— TURN IT —
— AND LET HOW PLAY WITH THE FUN END!
AMAZING. YOU TURN UP AT THE MOST UNEXPECTED OF TIMES.

MY SENSE OF TIMING IS ONE OF MY BEST TRAITS, RED.
WOMEN THE WORLD OVER WILL VERIFY THAT.
EACH OF THEM LYING TO PROTECT YOUR FALSE SENSE OF MACHISMO, I'M SURE.
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
BEEN ON YOUR TAIL FOR QUITE AWHILE EVER SINCE THAT BOON FOLLOWED YOU TO YOUR BOAT.
YOU KILLED HIM?
WHY DIDN'T YOU REVEAL YOURSELF?
YOU'RE ACQUAINTED WITH THIS DRUNKARD REPROBATE?

GIVE ME A BREAK, JON!
DON'T YOU KNOW A DISGUISE WHEN YOU SEE ONE?
THE NAME'S CHASE CARVER, GENTLEMAN—
-- SCHOLAR --
-- ADMIRER OF THE FEMININE FORM --
-- AND SUPER-HERO IN TRAINING!
-- SCOURGE --
-- MORON --
-- PERVERT --
AND CLUMSY FOOL IS MORE LIKE IT!
BLAM!

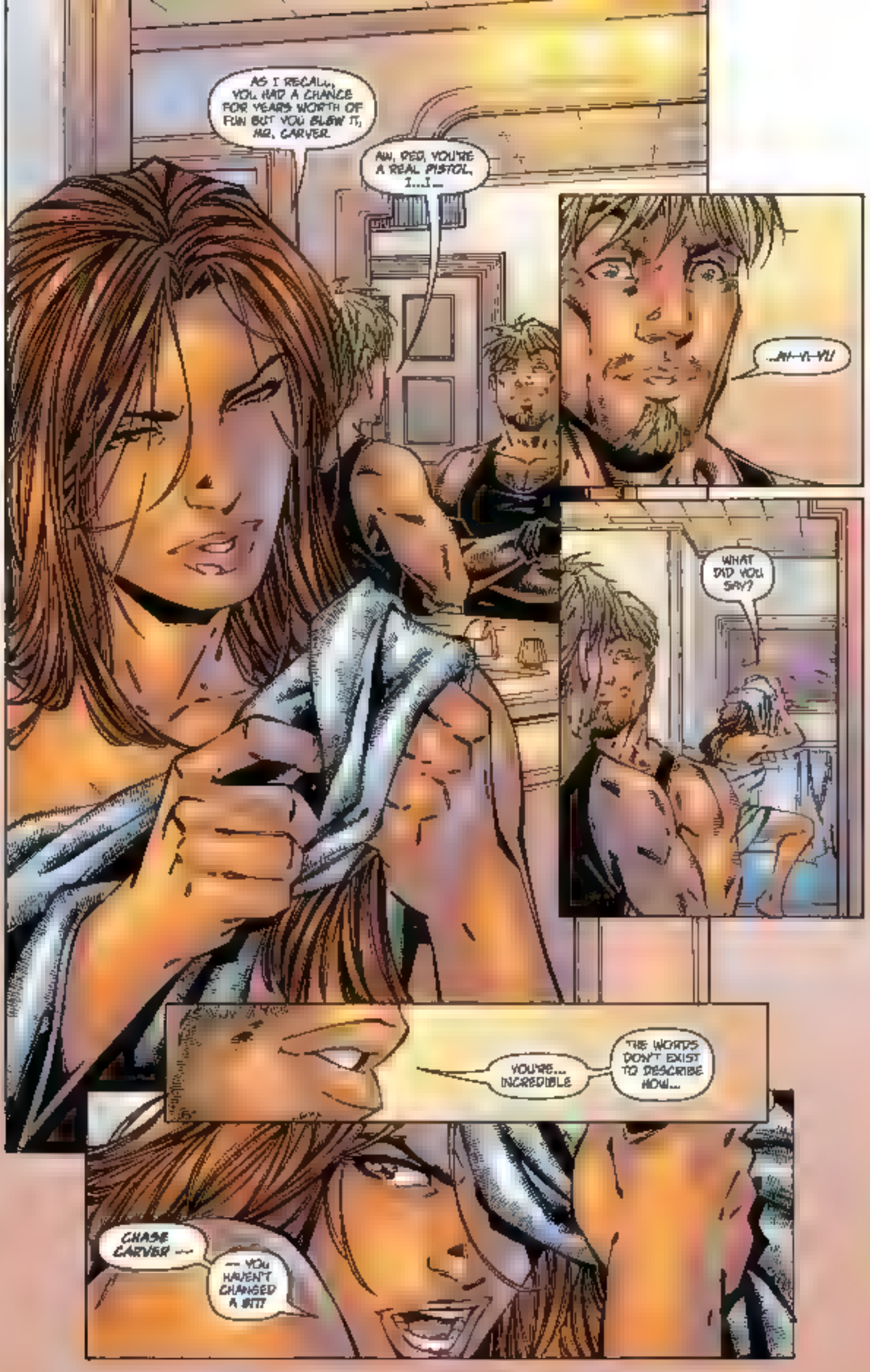
GET YOUR UNGRATEFUL BUTTS INTO THAT TRUCK BEFORE I DECIDE TO LEAVE YOU HERE!
MR. CARVER HAS A POINT. I SUGGEST WE EXHIBIT ALL PROPER APPRECIATION AND FOLLOW HIS ORDERS.
YOU, RIVERS, ARE OBVIOUSLY A MAN OF GREAT INTELLIGENCE!
WHO SAYS YOU GET TO DRIVE?
PAGE 72, PARAGRAPH THREE OF "FOX FANTASTIC RESCUES" RED.
AND I QUOTE:
"WHEN IN THE MIDDLE OF A DANGEROUS SITUATION, THE RESCUER SHALL ALWAYS PILOT THE GETAWAY VEHICLE —
WHILE THE RESCUEE SITS IN THE PASSENGER SEAT, BATTING HER EYES WITH GREAT ADORATION."
CHASE?
YES, M'LOVE?
BITE ME.
NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'.

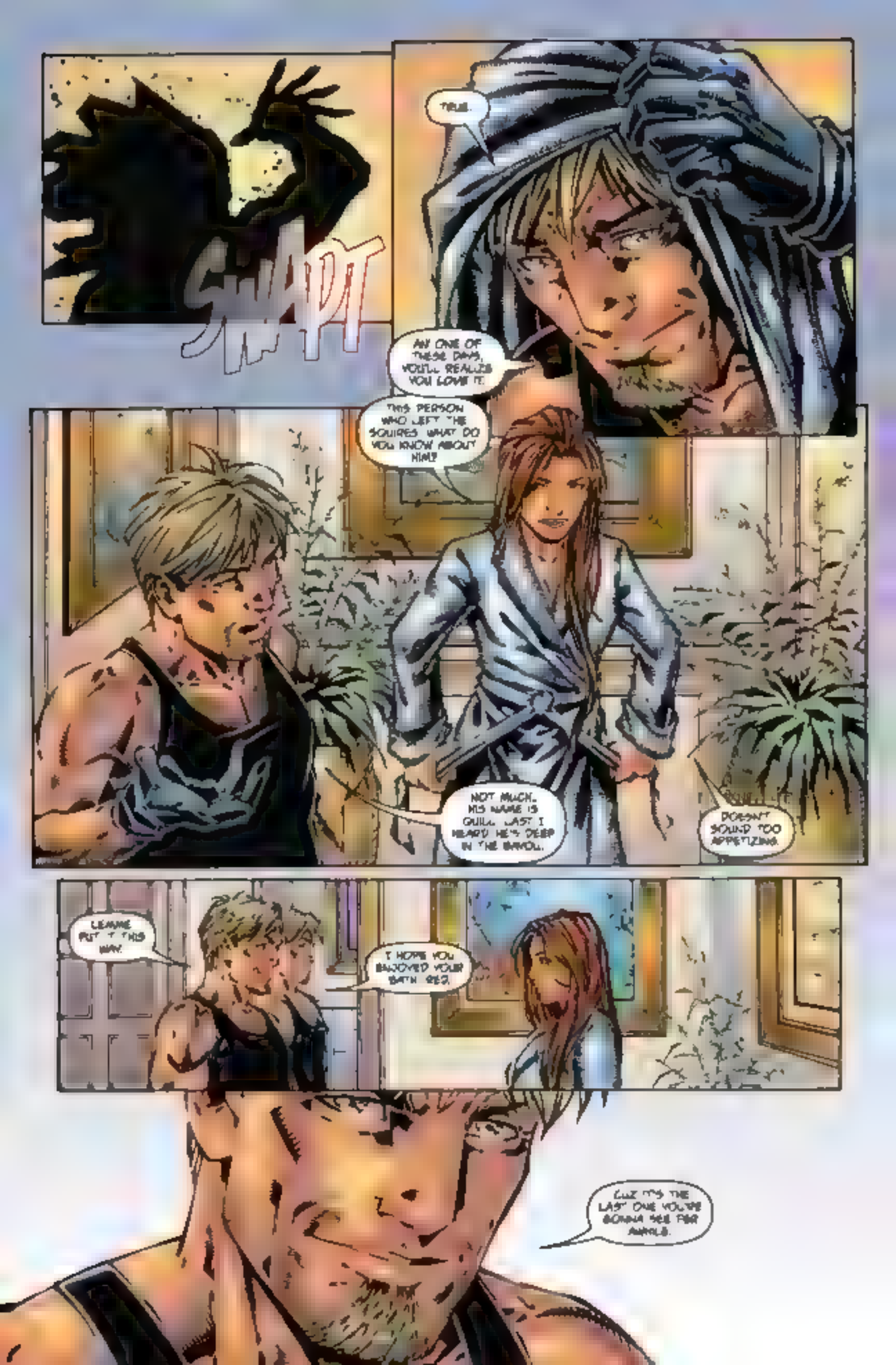

I TRUST YOU'VE COME TO NOTIFY ME THE ELITE SUCCEEDED IN ABDUCTING LARA CROFT AND WILL ARRIVE WITH HER AND THE EVE SOON.
I...I'M AFRAID NOT, MR. BORTEK
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT FIFTY OF OUR BEST TRAINED TROOPERS WERE OUTWITTED BY TWO WOMEN AND A FLABBY TECHNO-GEEK?
IT SEEMS THEY WERE INTERRUPTED BY A PASSERBY, SIR! A WANDERING BUM BECAME INVOLVED AND HELPED THEM ESCAPE!
UTILIZE EVERY RESOURCE WE HAVE TO DETERMINE THE MAN'S IDENTITY.
DON'T BE IGNORANT. A SIMPLE BUM WOULDN'T LAST TWO SECONDS AGAINST THE ELITE.
IT WAS ONE OF CROFT'S FRIENDS. THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.
ONCE IDENTIFIED
THEIR NEXT MOVE SHOULD BE QUITE APPARENT

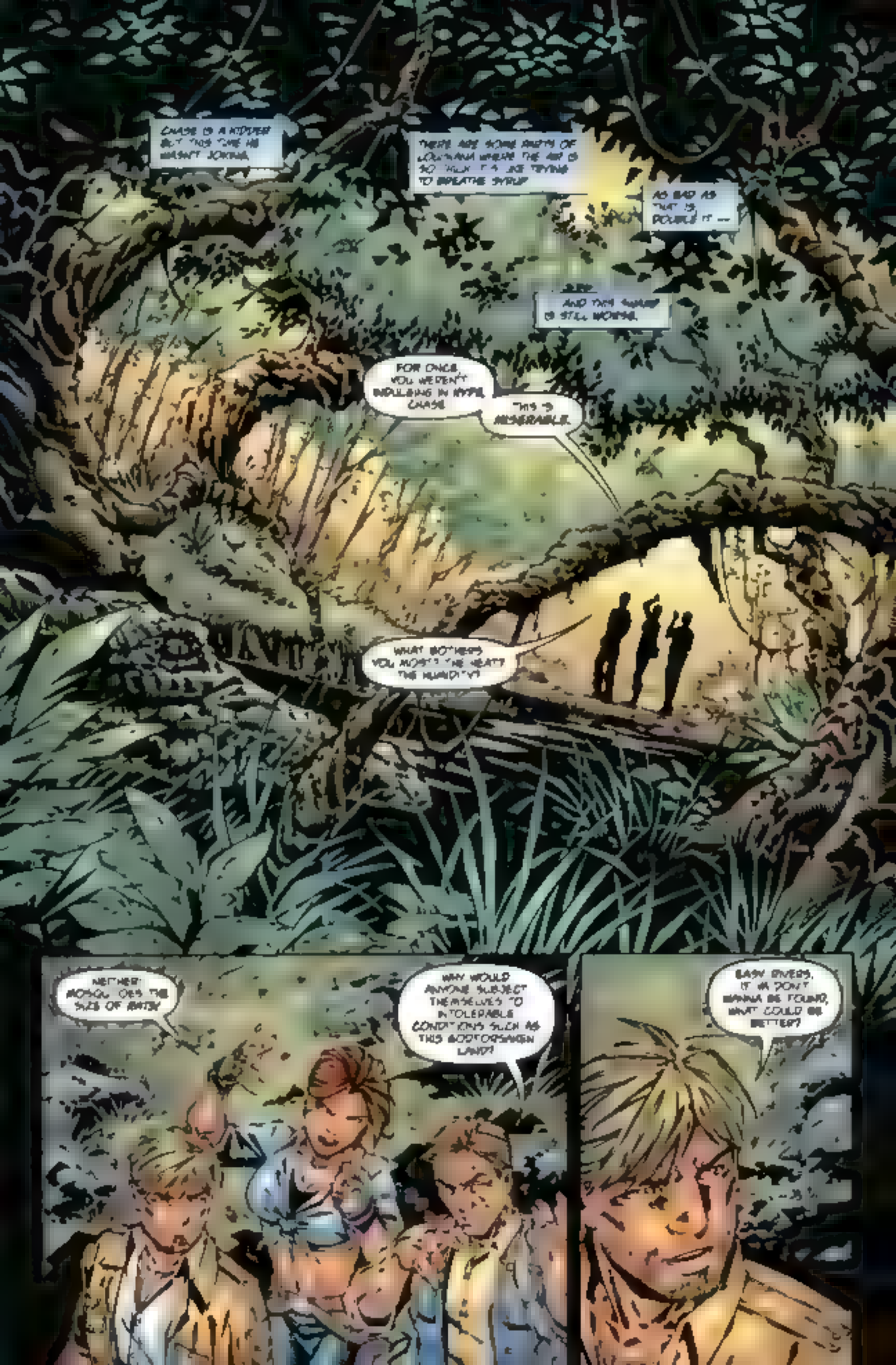
WHEREVER THE SQUIRES HANG OUT, THEY MUST BE STEWING.
GUYS LIKE THAT AREN'T ACCUSTOMED TO LOSHAWN.
NOR AM I.
MADELINE AND I HAVE BEEN MOVING SO HARD AND FAST THAT WE NEED TIME TO UNWIND.
AS SOON AS WE'RE READY TO GO, IT'S ON TO
KNOCK KNOCK
WHO IS IT?
IT'S MRS. HOWAN, LARA. MIGHT I HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME?
WHY, MRS. HOWAN! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I COULD SWEAR YOUR VOICE HAS DROPPED TWO OCTAVES IN THE PAST HOUR!

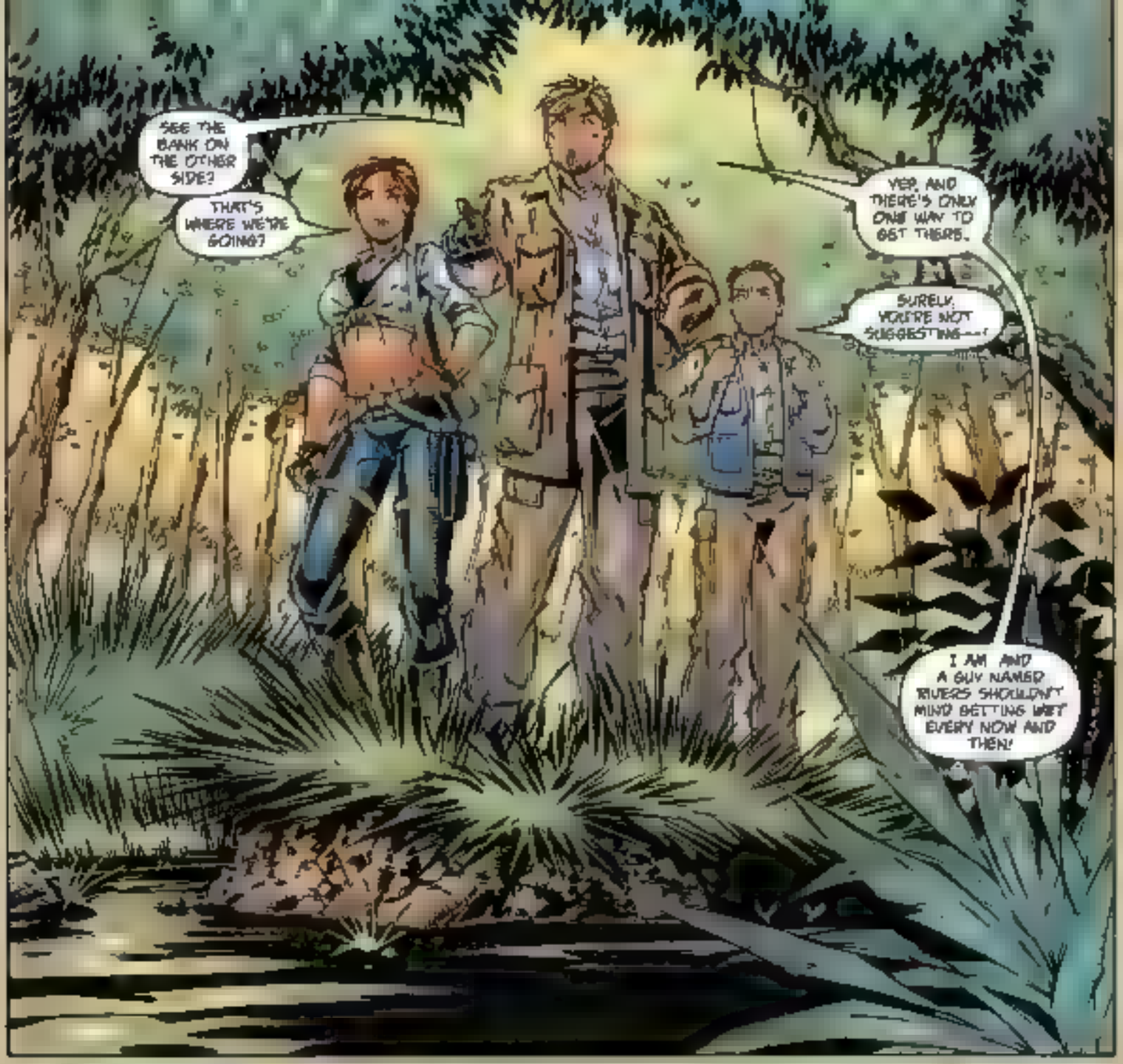
BLOODY HELL. YA GOT ME.
CAN I COME IN IF I PROMISE NOT TO LOOK?
AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT TO INDULGE YOUR ADOLESCENT FANTASIES, YES.
LOOK RED, IF YOU'RE UP AGAINST THIS SQUIRES YOU GOTTA KNOW THAT THEY WON'T BACK DOWN 'TIL THEY GET THE EVE.
I CAN'T QUIT, CHASE I NEVER QUIT. AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS ANYWAY?
REMEMBER WHEN WE PARTED ON THE BEACH? I WAS HEADING HOME WHEN I SPOTTED SOME CREEP MAKING LIKE YOUR SHADOW.
"HE HAD TROUBLE WRITTEN ALL OVER HIM SO I FOLLOWED.
"WHEN I WATCHED HIM DISARM YOUR BOAT'S SECURITY SYSTEM, I COULD TELL HE WAS A PRO."

BUT...WHY WOULD HE COME AFTER ME? I DIDN'T HAVE THE EVE!
EXACTLY, BUT HE DID.
HE WAS A SQUIRE ALL RIGHT — A MEMBER OF THE TEAM WHO FIRST RECOVERED THE EVE.
BUT HE DIDN'T WANT THEM TO HAVE IT!
"NEAR AS I CAN TELL HE DECIDED TO RABBIT AND TOOK OFF.
"UNFORTUNATELY HE WAS WOUNDED IN THE ESCAPE.
"ONLY ONE MAN EVER LEFT THE SQUIRES AND LIVED.
"THIS POOR BASTARD WASN'T GOING TO MAKE IT THO. I THINK HE WANTED YOU TO GIVE IT TO SOMEONE WHO COULD KEEP THE EVE SAFE —
"—BUT HE KICKED BEFORE HE COULD GIVE YOU THE HIT."
IF THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN STAND UP TO THE SQUIRES WE HAVE TO FIND HIM.
CARE TO TURN AROUND?
AWW! I NEVER GET TO HAVE ANY FUN!


AS I RECALL, YOU HAD A CHANCE FOR YEARS WORTH OF FUN BUT YOU BLEW IT, MR. CARVER.
AW, RED, YOU'RE A REAL PISTOL. I...I...
...AH-VI-VU
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU'RE... INCREDIBLE
THE WORDS DON'T EXIST TO DESCRIBE HOW...
CHASE CARVER ---
--- YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!

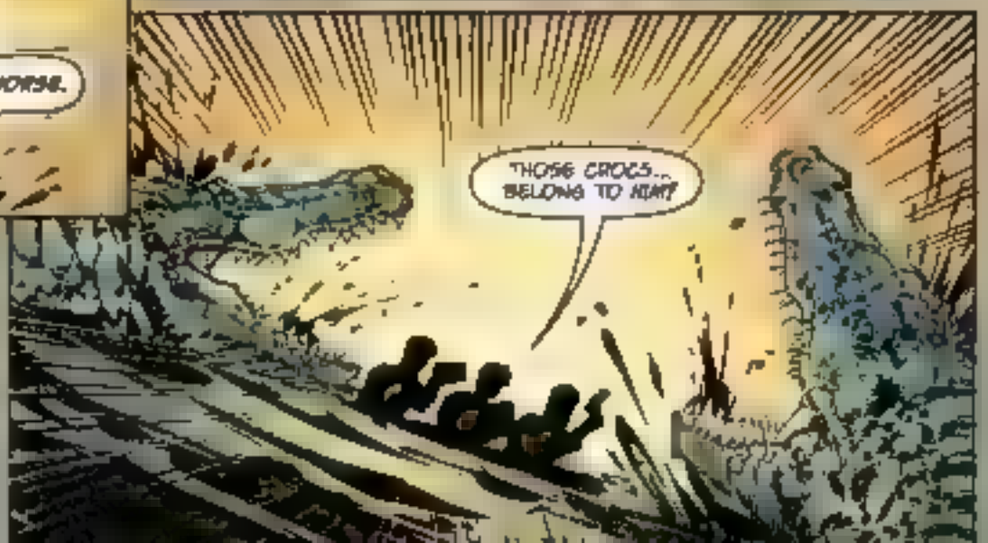

SNAPT
TRUE.
ANY ONE OF THESE DAYS, YOU'LL REALIZE YOU LOVE IT.
THIS PERSON WHO LEFT THE SQUIRES WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?
NOT MUCH. HIS NAME IS GUILL. LAST I HEARD HE'S DEEP IN THE BAYOU.
DOESN'T SOUND TOO APPETIZING.
LEANNE PUT IT THIS WAY.
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR BATH REX.
LUZ IT'S THE LAST ONE YOU'RE GONNA SEE FOR AWHILE.


CHASE IS A KITTEN BUT THIS TIME HE WASN'T JOKING.
THERE ARE SOME PARTS OF LOUISIANA WHERE THE AIR IS SO THICK IT'S LIKE TRYING TO BREATHE SYRUP
AS BAD AS THAT IS, DOUBLE IT ...
AND THIS SWAMP IS STILL WORSE.
FOR ONCE, YOU WEREN'T INDULGING IN HYPE, CHASE.
THIS IS MISERABLE.
WHAT BOTHERS YOU MORE? THE HEAT? THE HUMIDITY?
NEITHER! ACTUALLY, I LIKE THE TASTE OF WATER.
WHY WOULD ANYONE SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO INTOLERABLE CONDITIONS SUCH AS THIS GOD-FORSAKEN LAND?
EASY RIVERS. IF WE DON'T WANNA BE FOUND, WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

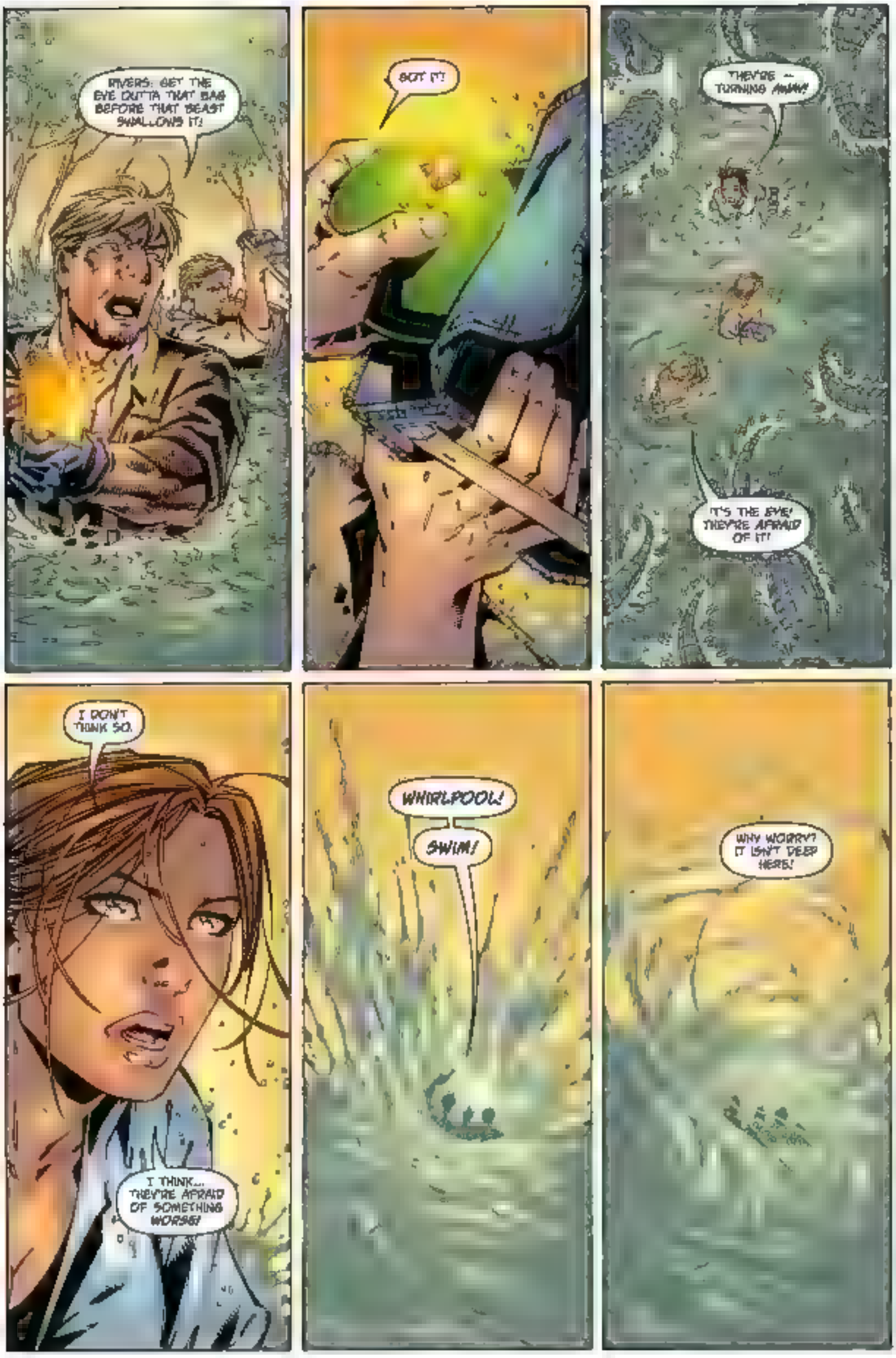

SEE THE BANK ON THE OTHER SIDE?
THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING?
YEP, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET THERE.
SURELY YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING---?
I AM AND A GUY NAMED RIVERS SHOULDN'T MIND GETTING WET EVERY NOW AND THEN!

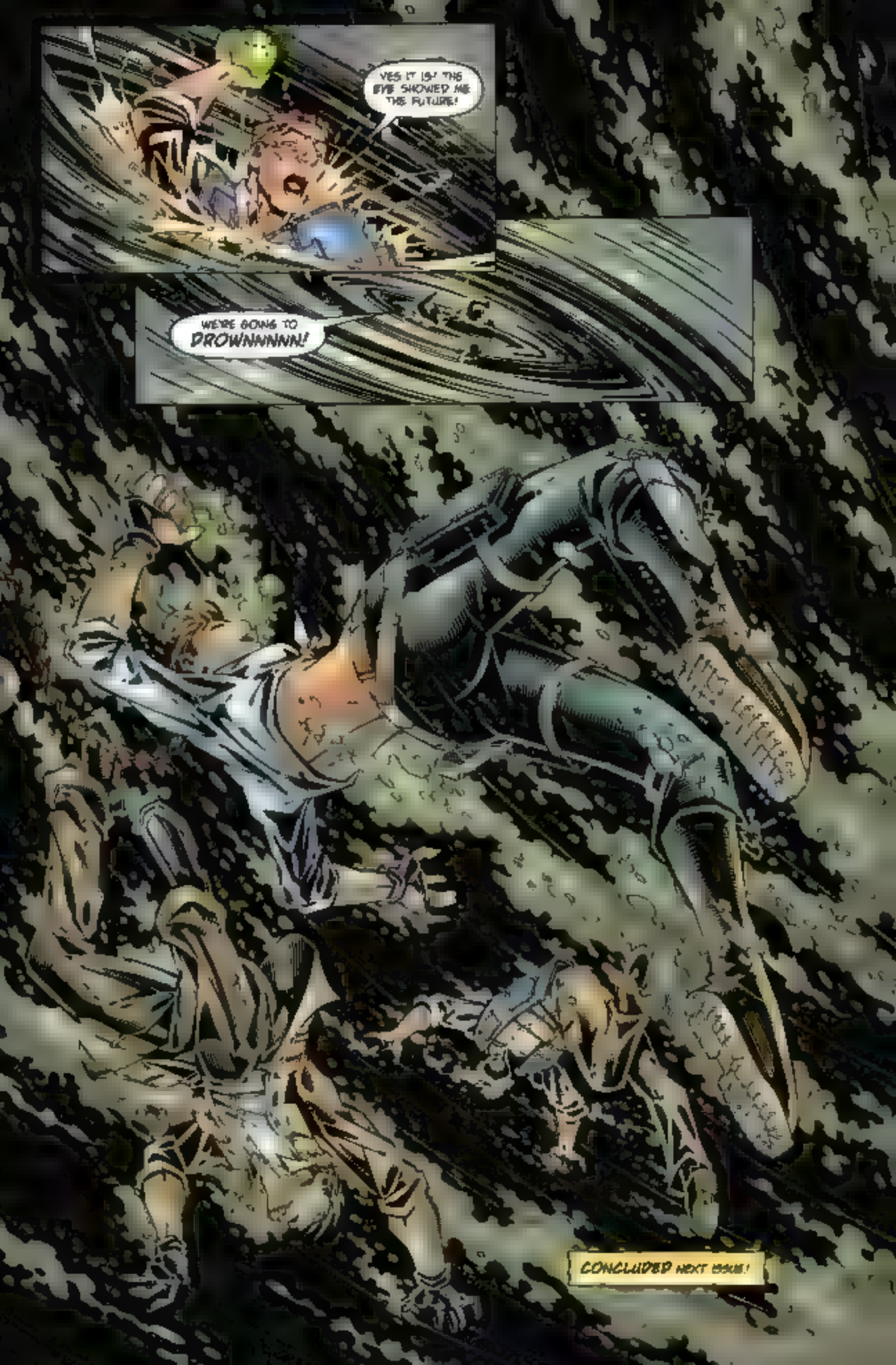
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED AND MOVE FAST.
QUILL DOESN'T LIKE COMPANY.
HE HAS WATCHDOGS?

WORSE.


THOSE CROCS... BELONG TO HIM?

SOME SAY QUILL CAN TELL THESE UGLIES WHAT TO DO.
THAT HE PRACTICALLY RUNS THE SWAMP AND EVERY CRITTER AROUND FOLLOWS HIS ORDERS.
KEEP THIS DRY!
I NEED BOTH HANDS FREE!
KCHOW
KCHOW
KCHOW


RIVERS: GET THE EYE OUTTA THAT BAG BEFORE THAT BEAST SWALLOWS IT!
GOT IT!
THEY'RE -- TURNING AWAY!
IT'S THE EYE! THEY'RE AFRAID OF IT!
I DON'T THINK SO.
I THINK... THEY'RE AFRAID OF SOMETHING WORSE!
WHIRLPOOL!
SWIM!
WHY WORRY? IT ISN'T DEEP HERE!


YES IT IS! THE EYE SHOWED ME THE FUTURE!
WE'RE GOING TO DROWNNNNN!
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

SMITH

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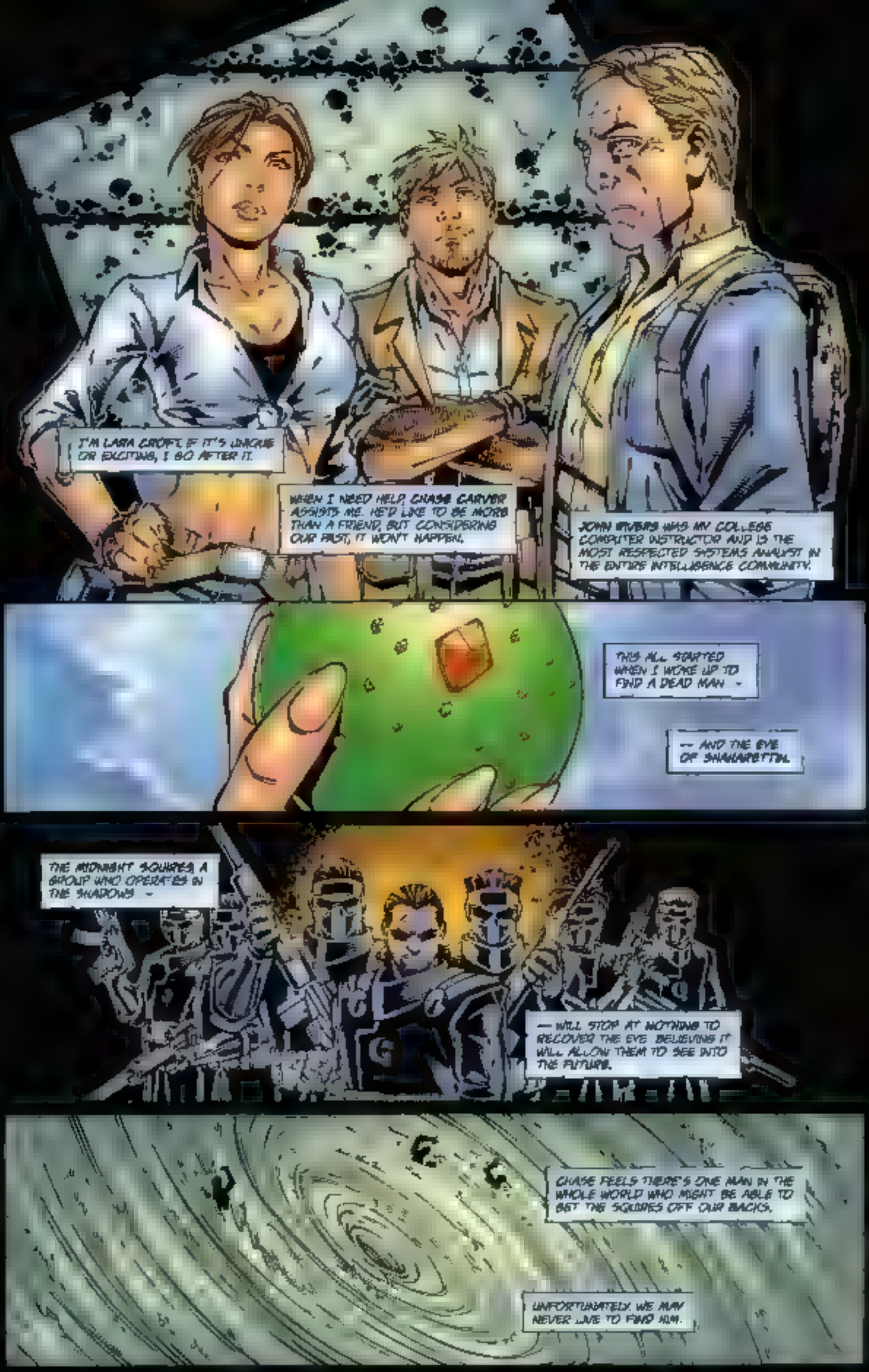

I'M LARA CROFT. IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING, I GO AFTER IT.
WHEN I NEED HELP, CHASE CARVER ASSISTS ME. HE'D LIKE TO BE MORE THAN A FRIEND, BUT CONSIDERING OUR PAST, IT WON'T HAPPEN.
JOHN RIVERS WAS MY COLLEGE COMPUTER INSTRUCTOR AND IS THE MOST RESPECTED SYSTEMS ANALYST IN THE ENTIRE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.
THIS ALL STARTED WHEN I WOKE UP TO FIND A DEAD MAN -
-- AND THE EYE OF SHAHARETTIN.
THE MIDNIGHT SQUIRES, A GROUP WHO OPERATES IN THE SHADOWS -
-- WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO RECOVER THE EYE. BELIEVING IT WILL ALLOW THEM TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE.
CHASE FEELS THERE'S ONE MAN IN THE WHOLE WORLD WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET THE SQUIRES OFF OUR BACKS.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE MAY NEVER LIVE TO FIND HIM.

TWO MINUTES AGO WE WERE MAKING THROUGH A SHALLOW LOUISIANA SWAMP.

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW IT'S POSSIBLE BUT THE MUCKY BOTTOM SUDDENLY GAVE WAY.

ONLY TO BE REPLACED BY THIS MOTHER OF ALL WHIRLPOOLS.

WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

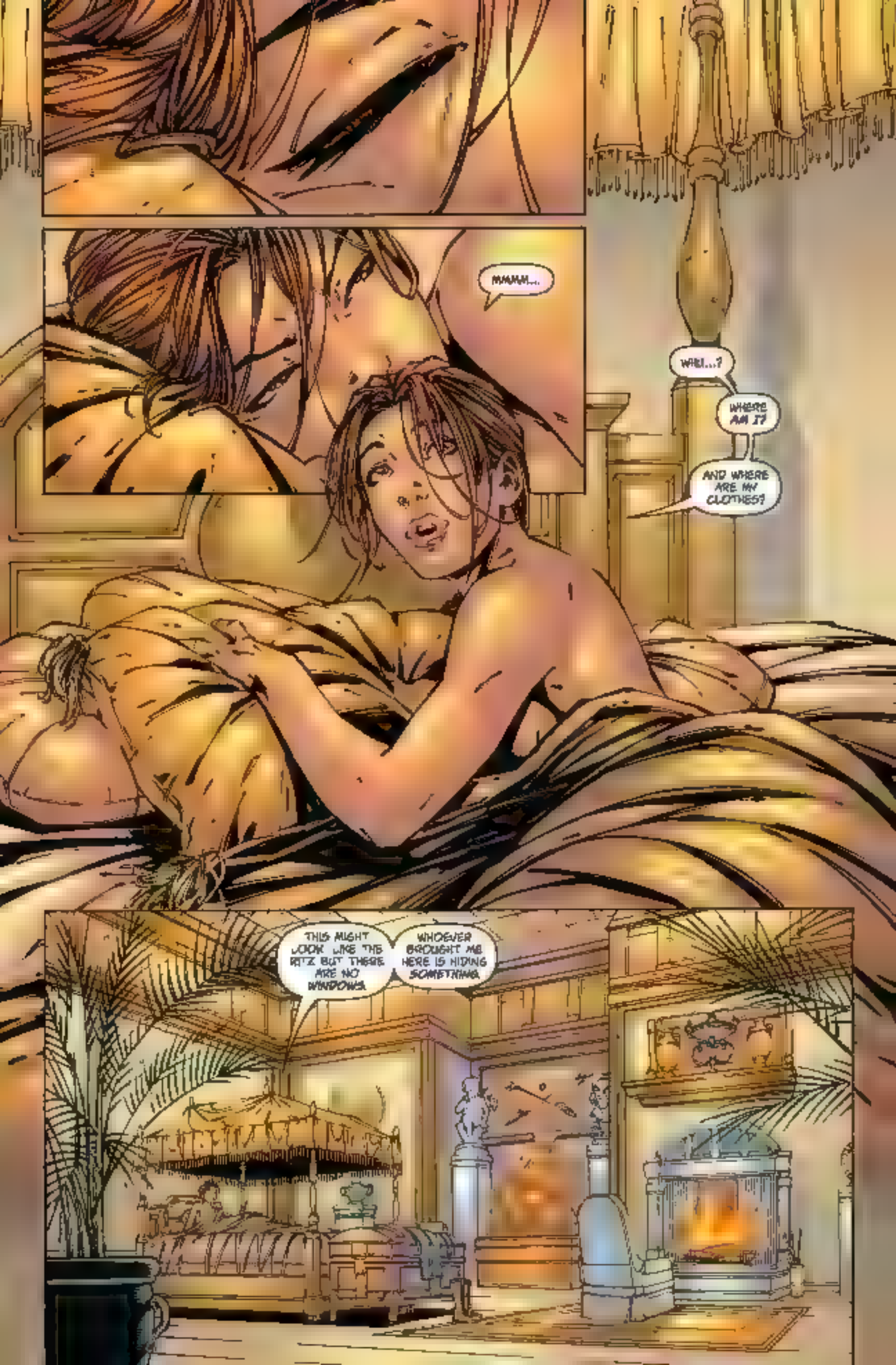
DEADCENTER

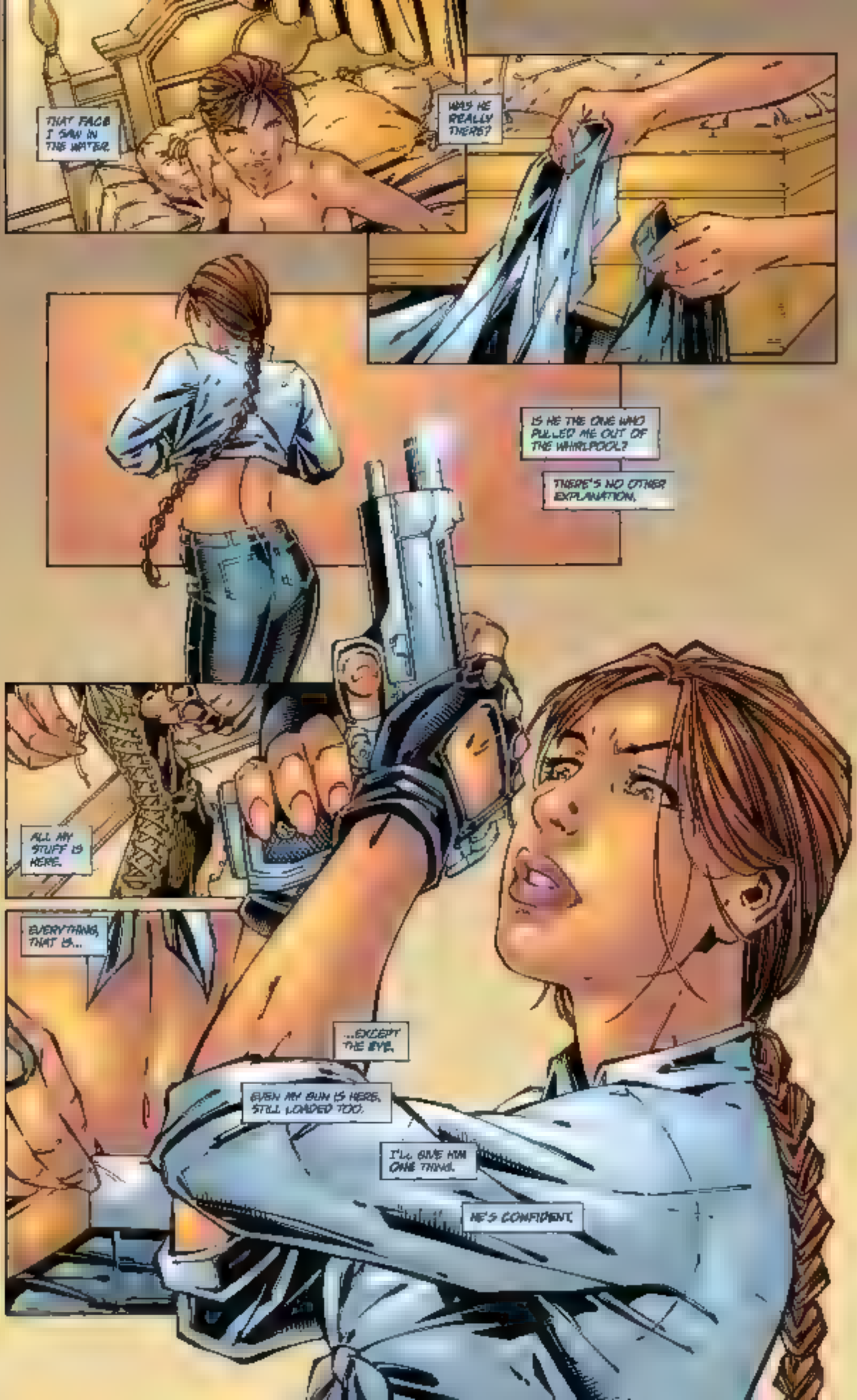
NO!
RIVERS LOST THE BYE!
I SHOULD PROBABLY LET IT GO WORRY ABOUT SAVING MYSELF FIRST --
BUT THAT'S NOT MY STYLE!

CAN'T HOLD OUT ANY —
—?!
IMPOSSIBLE!
—POSSSS...

MANHATTAN.
I TRUST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH HAS FINALLY COMPLETED THEIR TASK OF PREDICTING CROFT'S NEXT MOVE?
YES, MR. ROSTOK.
WE IDENTIFIED THE "WINO" WHO INTERVENED ON HER BEHALF AS CHASE CARVER. A LONGTIME TREASURE HUNTER AND ASSOCIATE OF CROFT'S.
HE'S SOMETHING OF A WANDERER. A FORMER NAVY SEAL WHO USED THAT TRAINING AS A SPRINGBOARD INTO CURRENT ENDEAVORS.
CARVER'S SUCCESSES HAVE BEEN FEW AND MINIMAL.
INTELLIGENCE HAS A THEORY TO WHERE THEY'VE GONE.
SPECIFY.
GO ON.
THEY THINK... WELL, THEY THINK THEY'VE GONE TO QUILL.
QUILL?!
HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR THREE YEARS!

SO WE BELIEVED. BUT OUR RESEARCH REVEALED THEY ENCOUNTERED EACH OTHER FIVE YEARS AGO IN SOUTH AFRICA.
THAT MEANS NOTHING!
THAT WASN'T THE ONLY TIME THIS PHOTO OF QUILL AND CARVER WAS TAKEN IN BRAZIL, TWO DAYS BEFORE QUILL'S DEATH.
MIGHT I REMIND YOU THAT I RECOVERED QUILL'S BODY MYSELF?
SO BADLY BURNED THAT HIS DENTAL RECORDS WEREN'T TOTALLY CONCLUSIVE.
IT SEEMS INCOMPREHENSIBLE AND YET---!
WE USED OUR SATELLITES TO TRACK CROFT AND HER FRIENDS TO LOUISIANA.
QUILL ALIVE?
GATHER EVERY ELITE SQUADRON TEAM WE HAVE AND SEND THEM TO LOUISIANA.
I WILL HAVE THE EYE BY THE END OF THE DAY!


MMMM...
WHA...?
WHERE AM I?
AND WHERE ARE MY CLOTHES?
THIS MIGHT LOOK LIKE THE RITZ BUT THERE ARE NO WINDOWS.
WHOEVER BROUGHT ME HERE IS HIDING SOMETHING.


THAT FACE I SAW IN THE WATER.
WAS HE REALLY THERE?
IS HE THE ONE WHO PULLED ME OUT OF THE WHIRLPOOL?
THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION.
ALL MY STUFF IS HERE.
EVERYTHING, THAT IS...
...EXCEPT THE EVE.
EVEN MY GUN IS HERE. STILL LOADED TOO.
I'LL GIVE HIM ONE THING.
HE'S CONFIDENT.

THAT MAKES TWO OF US.
MIGHT AS WELL SCOUT THE PLACE TO SEE IF - OH.
HALF FORTRESS HALF PLAYBOY MANSION.
CHASE'S WET DREAM.
WHERE'S THE BOSS AND WHERE CAN I FIND HIM?
YOU'RE AWAKE, GOOD.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GUILL, YOU'LL FIND HIM ON SUBLEVEL THREE.
THERE'S MORE BELOW?
OF COURSE.
IF THE GENESIS COMPLEX IS TO SUCCESSFULLY RELAUNCH HUMANITY WE NEED TO HOUSE A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE.
ALL THE COMFORTS OF LIFE ABOVE GROUND - EXCEPT THE SUN.
I WONDER WHO - OR WHAT THEY'RE HIDING FROM?

THE PLACE IS VAST.
LIKE SOMETHING AN ANCIENT RULER MIGHT BUILD IN TESTIMONY TO HIS GREATNESS.
JUDGING BY THE DECOR WE HAVE SIMILAR TASTES.
ARE YOU THE BOSS AROUND HERE?
AN AMAZING THING, THIS EYE OF SHAMBRETTIN.
DO YOU REALIZE I NOW KNOW WHO THE NEXT SIX PRESIDENTS WILL BE?
THAT I KNOW THE EXACT SECOND A THERMONUCLEAR EXCHANGE WILL IGNITE THE MIDEAST?
THE PRECISE MOMENT TERRORISTS WILL UNLEASH A BIOCHEMICAL ATTACK THAT WILL DECIMATE ONE TENTH OF AMERICA'S POPULATION?
THAT'S MINE.
RIDICULOUS. THE ONLY POSSESSION ONE TRULY MIGHT CALL ONE'S OWN --
-- IS ONE'S MIND.

I AM SAMUEL GUILL, MS. CROFT
PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR BRINGING YOU HERE IN SUCH AN UNORTHODOX MANNER.
IN TRUTH, I HAVE BEEN A GREAT ADMIRER OF YOUR WORK FOR SOME TIME NOW.
I'LL HAVE THE PRESIDENT OF MY FAN CLUB SEND YOU A MEMBERSHIP KIT.
WHY DIDN'T THE EVE TELL ME ANY OF THIS THINGS IT TOLD YOU?
YOU HAVE YET TO MASTER IT, MY LADY.
CHASE SAYS YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE MIDNIGHT SQUIRES. THAT YOU CAN STAND UP TO THEM.
A SAFE ASSUMPTION.
IN PART BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER ME... EXPIRED.
LOOK - I REALIZE HOW LETHAL THAT EVE MIGHT BE IN THE WRONG HANDS.
BUT SEEING THIS TESTAMENT TO YOUR EGO --
-- I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE ANY BETTER THAN THEM!

YOU SHOULD TRUST ME, MS. CROFT. IN TERMS OF KEEPING MY EXISTENCE A SECRET --
-- IT WOULD HAVE BENEFITED ME MORE TO LET YOU DIE IN THAT SWAMP.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? SOME KIND OF HIGH TECH COMMUNE FOR YOUR FOLLOWERS AND THEIR FAMILIES?
FAMILIES AIN'T QUITE THE WORD, REG.
MY OLD PAL SAMMY HAS A LOT MORE GOING FOR HIMSELF THAN YOU THINK.
MEANING?
MEANING THE ONLY MEN IN THE JOINT ARE ME, RIVERS AND GUN...
ALL THOSE WOMEN OUT THERE, AND THOSE KIDS...THEY BELONG TO HIM.
A HAREM.
I AM A MAN OF GREAT APPETITE, MS. CROFT. IN ALL THINGS OF BEAUTY.
WOMEN IN PARTICULAR.

THERE'S NO WAY I'M LEAVING THE EVE WITH THIS MEGALOMANIAC, CHASE!
LET'S GO.
YOU OUGHTA KNOW THE WHOLE STORY FIRST, HER.
INDEED.
I BELONGED TO THE SQUIRES FOR A GREAT MANY YEARS.
PRIOR TO MY "DEATH" I EVEN LED THEM.
SO LONG AS THEY BELIEVE ME TO HAVE PASSED, MY TROUBLES ARE MINIMAL.
YOU'VE DEVELOPED A CURE FOR R.M.S.?
HEH!
LOYALTY ADDS NOTHING AT PRESENT, MS. CROFT.
THE SQUIRES WERE ORIGINALLY A COLLECTION OF WEALTHY AMERICANS WHO REFUSED TO SIGN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
THEY PREFERRED TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES, EXTENDING THEIR INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

AS TIME PASSED, THE SQUIRES BECAME MORE AND MORE OBSESSED WITH ORCHESTRATING MAJOR WORLD EVENTS.
I WAS NOT SO INCLINED
MY CHIEF INTEREST IS PRESERVING THE PAST WHILE AVOIDING THE LOOMING DISASTERS WHICH AWAIT US ALL.
THOSE EVENTS YOU SAY THE EYE REVEALED — YOU WEREN'T KIDDING?
HOW COULD YOU BE?
WITH PARADISE ISLAND TO SATISFY EVERY NIGHT, WHO'D HAVE THE TIME?
IF THE SQUIRES POSSESS THE EYE, ALL THAT AND WORSE SHALL OCCUR.
SAMUEL! DOZENS OF BLACK HELICOPTERS ARE APPROACHING IN ATTACK FORMATION!
ROETEK KE KNOWS.
BLOODY HELL! NOW WHAT?

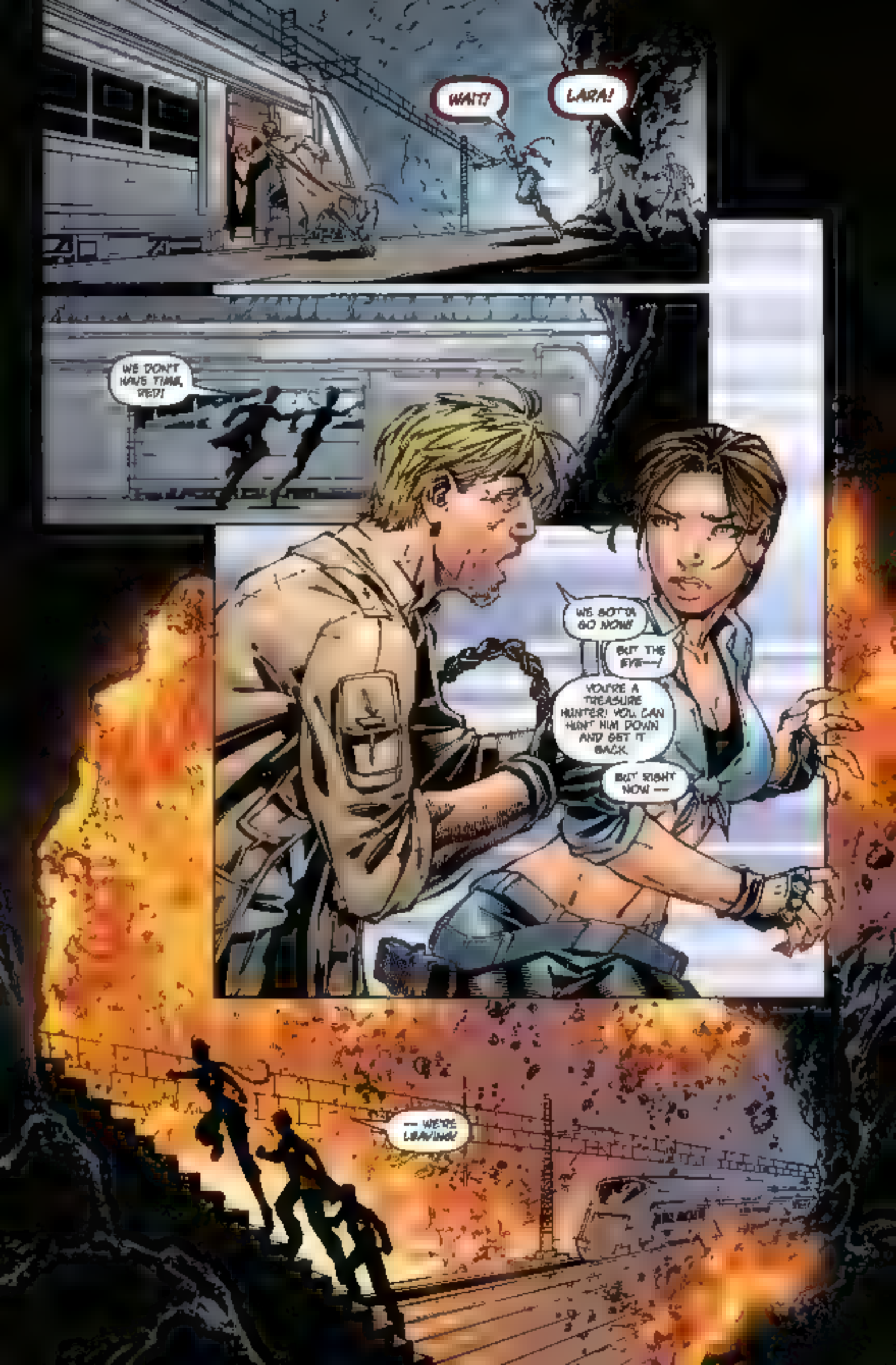
WE FIGHT.
WE'RE APPROACHING THE SWAMP AREA, MR. ROETEK.
YOUR ORDERS?
PRIME ALL MISSILE SYSTEMS FOR BLANKET AND TOTAL COVERAGE AND —
— FIRE!!!
BOOM

HURRY. WE'LL ESCAPE VIA THE MONORAIL.
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN TRAIN? IN THE SWAMPS?
RUNNING BELOW THE SWAMPS.
I DON'T TRUST ANY OF THIS. I'LL DIG MY OWN WAY OUT.
THAT'S THE WORD, RIVERS. CALL MADELINE.
YOU MEAN WE CAN FINALLY LEAVE?
THANK GOD! I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS FIELD WORK!
I'LL TAKE THAT!
MS. CROFT YOU MUSTN'T!
SORRY MEF, BUT YOU'VE GIVEN ME ZERO REASON TO TRUST YOU.
AH. BUT YOU HAVE EVERY REASON, MS. CROFT
YOU SEE I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE, AND WE...

HEY--!
FORGET IT!
I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY I'D EVER--!
I'D RATHER--

ATTACK FORMATION! MOVE!
MAXIMUM FIREPOWER!
DO WHAT EVER IT TAKES!
JUST GET ME THE EYE!
CROFT.
YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHASING ME TO HELL AND BACK?

THIS IS MY DOMAIN, ROETSKI! NOT YOURS!
QUILL! YOU ARE ALI—AIIH!
FAR MORE —
— THAN CAN BE SAID FOR YOU, SIR.
TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA
MY COMPOUND IS RIGGED WITH EXPLOSIVES.
IN LESS THAN TWO MINUTES IT WILL BE LITTLE MORE THAN A MEMORY.
I OFFER ONE FINAL CHANCE.
I RELY ON MYSELF. I ALWAYS HAVE AND ALWAYS WILL.


WAIT!
LARA!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME, REID!
WE GOTTA GO NOW!
BUT THE EVE—!
YOU'RE A TREASURE HUNTER! YOU CAN HUNT HIM DOWN AND GET IT BACK.
BUT RIGHT NOW —
— WE'RE LEAVING!

YOU CALLED MADELINE?
I DID...BUT ARE YOU CERTAIN SHE CAN FLY?
WHEN I WRITE A JOB DESCRIPTION I ASK FOR EVERY SKILL IN THE BOOK!
THERE SHE IS NOW!
HURRY!
THANK GOODNESS YOU CALLED! I FEARED THE WORST!
WHICH WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T FLOOR IT!
AS WE FLY AWAY GUILL'S WORDS FLY WITH ME.
AS DOES THE AWARENESS THAT HE'S JUST LIKE THE SOLDIERS.
TOO POWERFUL ...AND TOO DANGEROUS TO HAVE THE EVIL.
KABOOM
SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE IT FROM HIM.
SOON.
THE END

SHANGRI-LA PART 1
JD SMITH

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

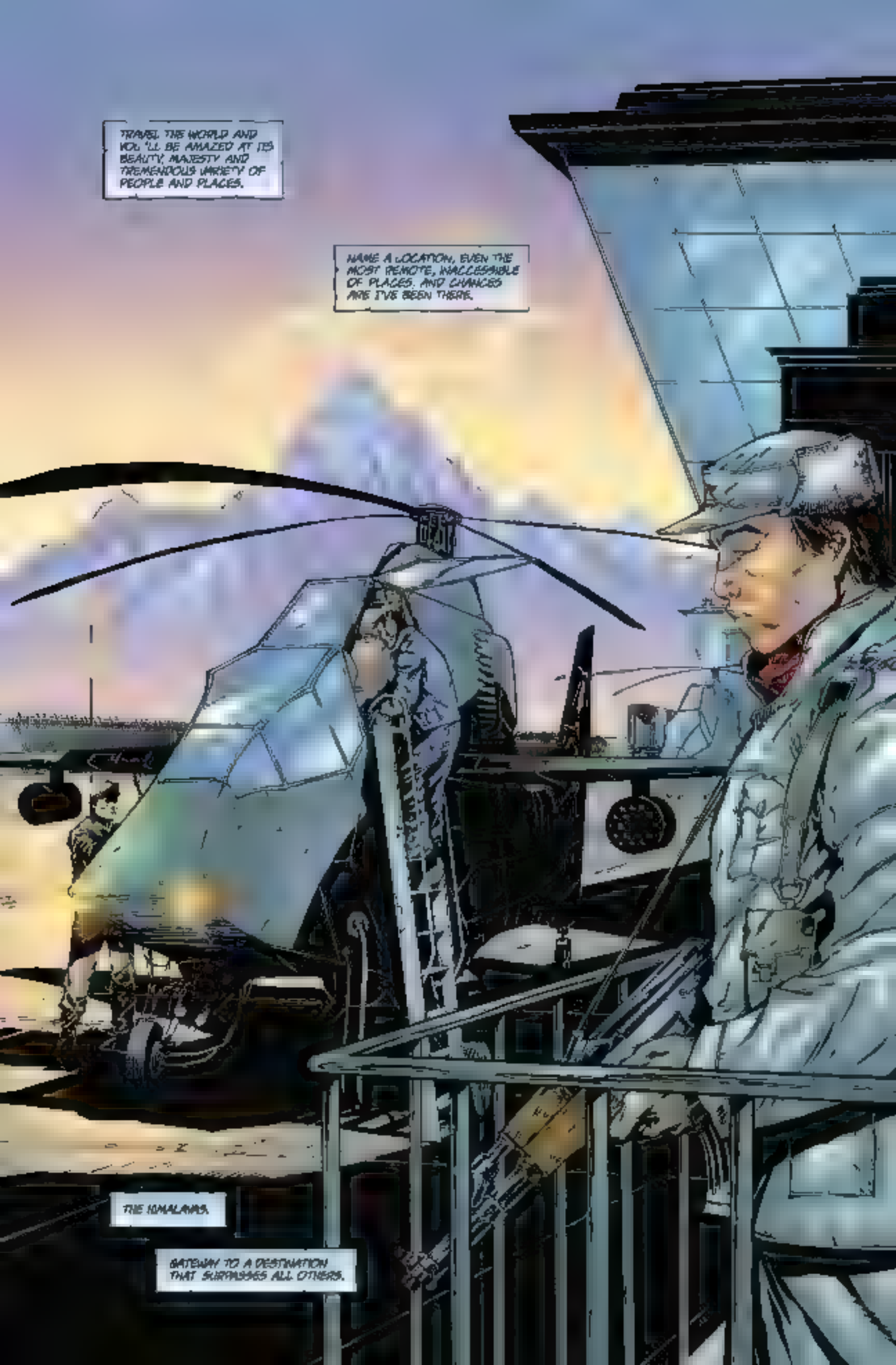
ART
BILLY TAN

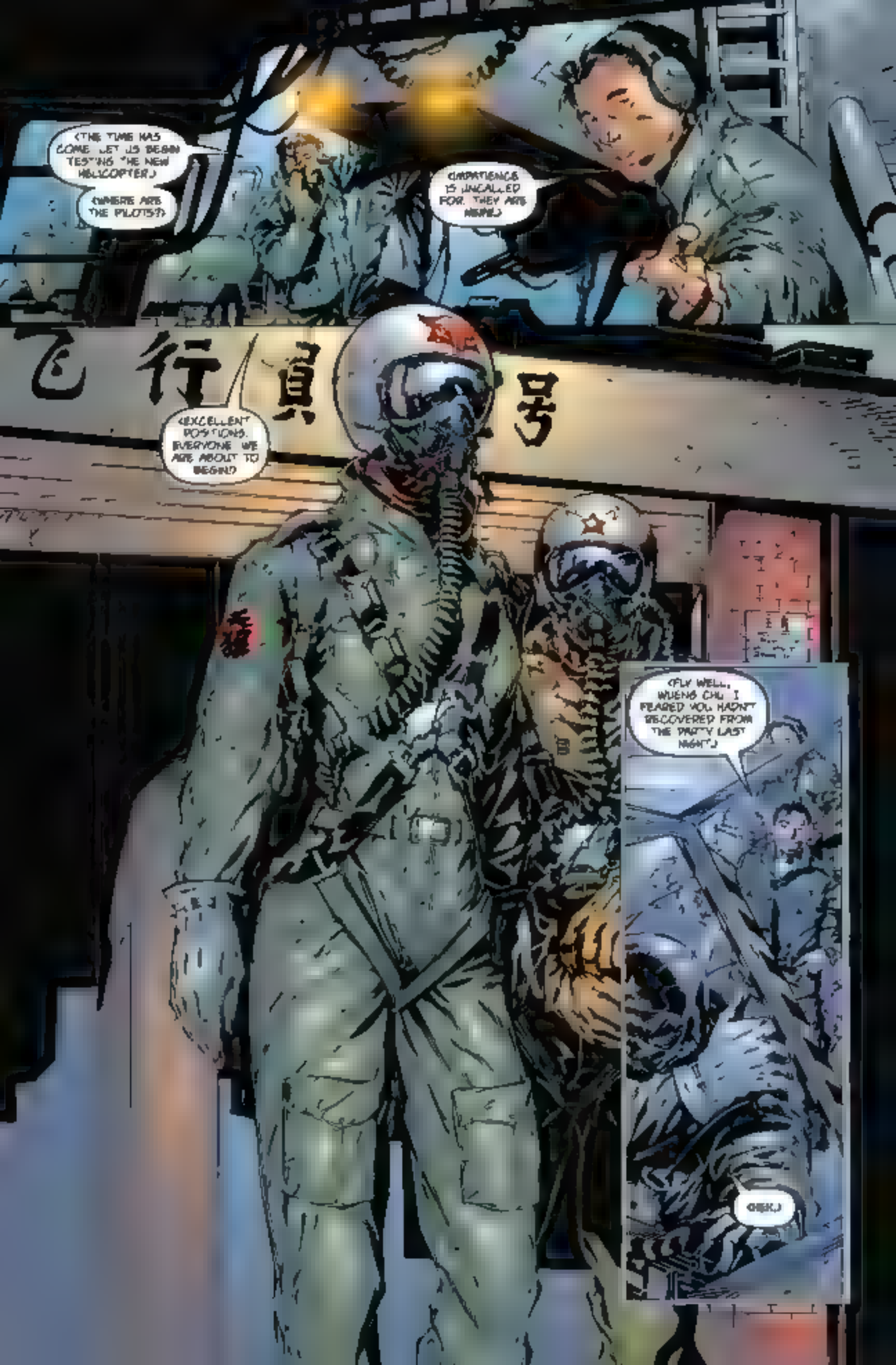
COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
[redacted]

COVER ART
[redacted]LLY TAN

COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

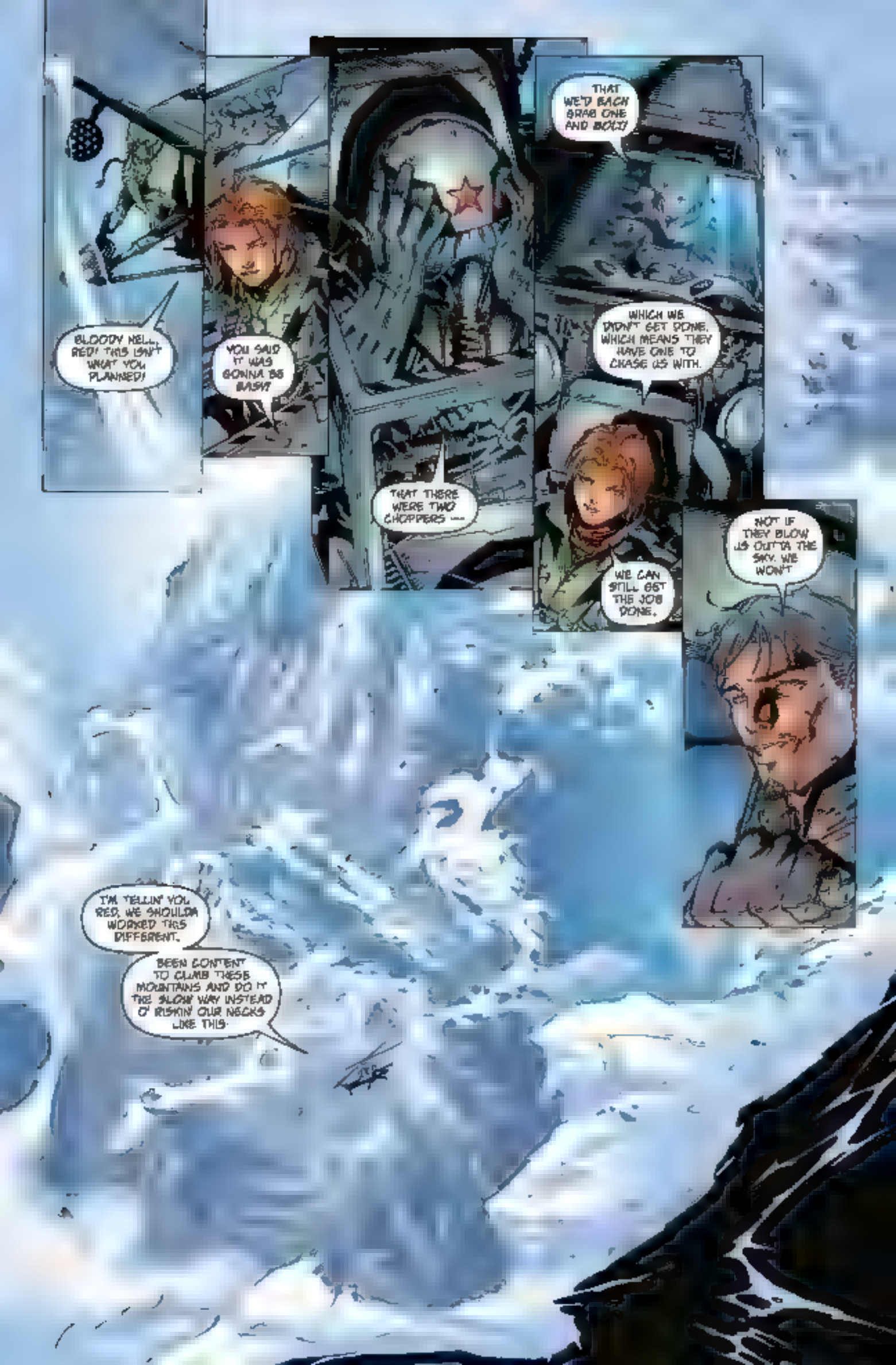

TRAVEL THE WORLD AND YOU'LL BE AMAZED AT ITS BEAUTY, MAJESTY AND TREMENDOUS VARIETY OF PEOPLE AND PLACES.
NAME A LOCATION, EVEN THE MOST REMOTE, INACCESSIBLE OF PLACES. AND CHANCES ARE I'VE BEEN THERE.
THE HIMALAYAS.
GATEWAY TO A DESTINATION THAT SURPASSES ALL OTHERS.

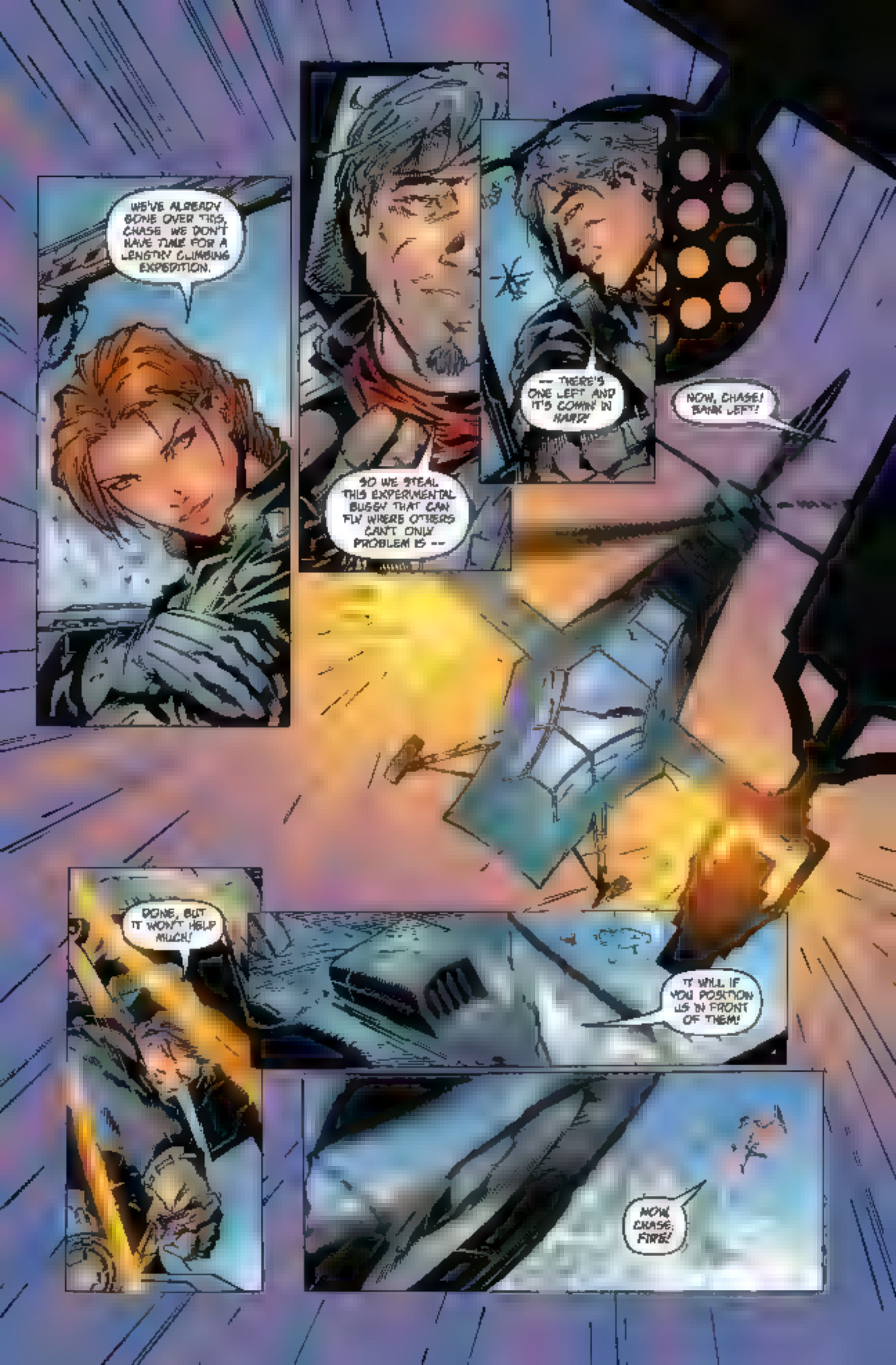

(THE TIME HAS COME. LET US BEGIN TESTING THE NEW HELICOPTER.)
(WHERE ARE THE PILOTS?)
(IMPATIENCE IS UNCALLED FOR. THEY ARE HERE.)
飞行员
(EXCELLENT POSITIONS. EVERYONE WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN!)
(FLY WELL, WUENG CHU. I FEARED YOU HADN'T RECOVERED FROM THE DRINKING LAST NIGHT.)
(HEH.)

«STOP! YOU MUST HALT THE TESTS!»
«IMPOSSIBLE! SUCH RASH ACTION IS UNJUSTIFIED!»
«YES, IT IS! THE TRUE PILOTS ARE UNCONSCIOUS IN THE LOCKER ROOM; THE PEOPLE IN THE HELICOPTER ARE IMPOSTORS!»
BWHOOOOOOOO
SIRENS! GET YOUR BUTT IN HERE!
FIRE UP THE ROTORS: WE'RE LEAVING!
«USE FORCE! DO WHATEVER YOU MUST TO STOP THEM!»
«THEY ARE SPIES ENEMIES OF THE STATE!»
«HASTILY.»
«I HAVE—EH!?»

(WE'RE JUST A COUPLE OF WANDERERS—)
(—LOOKING FOR A RIDE.)
I'M LARA CROFT. IF IT'S UNIQUE OR EXCITING, I GO AFTER IT.
MY PARTNER IN CRIME IS FELLOW TOMB RAIDER, CHASE CARVER. HE HAPPENS TO BE A LIAR AND THIEF WHO CHEATS IN CARDS AND LOVE. THOSE ARE HIS GOOD POINTS.

(WITH YOUR PERMISSION, WE'LL BE THE ONES TO TEST YOUR BIRD.)
(THANKS. I THOUGHT YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY.)
THEIR REACTION SAYS THEY DON'T AGREE.
AND I DON'T INTEND TO STAY AND DEBATE THE POINT.
LARA! GET IN HERE NOW!
DON'T WAIT FOR ME! GET THIS CRATE OFF THE GROUND —
— SO I CAN GET A CLEAR SHOT!
DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU'RE A CLEAR SHOT FOR THEM TOO?
NOT IF YOU GET US MOVING.
GO!


BLOODY HELL, RED! THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU PLANNED!
YOU SAID IT WAS GONNA BE EASY!
THAT THERE WERE TWO CHOPPERS ...
THAT WE'D EACH GRAB ONE AND BOOK!
WHICH WE DIDN'T GET DONE. WHICH MEANS THEY HAVE ONE TO CHASE US WITH.
WE CAN STILL GET THE JOB DONE.
NOT IF THEY BLOW US OUTTA THE SKY. WE WON'T
I'M TELLIN' YOU RED, WE SHOULDA WORKED THIS DIFFERENT.
BEEN CONTENT TO CLIMB THESE MOUNTAINS AND DO IT THE SLOW WAY INSTEAD O' RISKIN' OUR NECKS LIKE THIS.


WE'VE ALREADY GONE OVER THIS, CHASE. WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A LENGTHY CLIMBING EXPEDITION.
SO WE STEAL THIS EXPERIMENTAL BUGGY THAT CAN FLY WHERE OTHERS CAN'T. ONLY PROBLEM IS --
-- THERE'S ONE LEFT AND IT'S COMIN' IN HARD!
NOW, CHASE! BANK LEFT!
DONE, BUT IT WON'T HELP MUCH!
IT WILL IF YOU POSITION US IN FRONT OF THEM!
NOW, CHASE, FIRE!

GLADLY!
UMM...LARA? WE GOT A PROBLEM!
CHIKT
THE GUNS ARE EMPTY!
CHIKT
(NOW, WESTERNERS, YOU PAY FOR DIRTYING OUR SOIL.)
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BADT
T-TING
T-TING T-TING
CHASE! THAT MIST DOWN THERE IS JUST WHERE WE WANT TO BE!
DIKE US DOWN!
CONSIDERIN' THAT WE'RE FULL O' HOLES
— IT MAY BE THE ONLY DIRECTION WE CAN GO, DARLIN'!
HERE GOES NUTHIN'!

<FOLLOW THEM!>

<BUT...TO DO SO... MEANS DEATH!>

AS SOON AS I'M OUT, FLY OUT AND GET OUR PACKAGE!

AS SOON AS YOU'RE--? RED! WHAT'RE YOU THINKIN'?

THAT I CAN FIX THIS.

MOVE OUT, CHASE. THIS IS MY SHOW NOW.

TO PULL THIS OFF I NEED A LIFETIME'S SUPPLY OF LUCK

-- AND PERFECT TIMING.

FORTUNATELY, I HAVE PLENTY OF BOTH.

AND MORE.

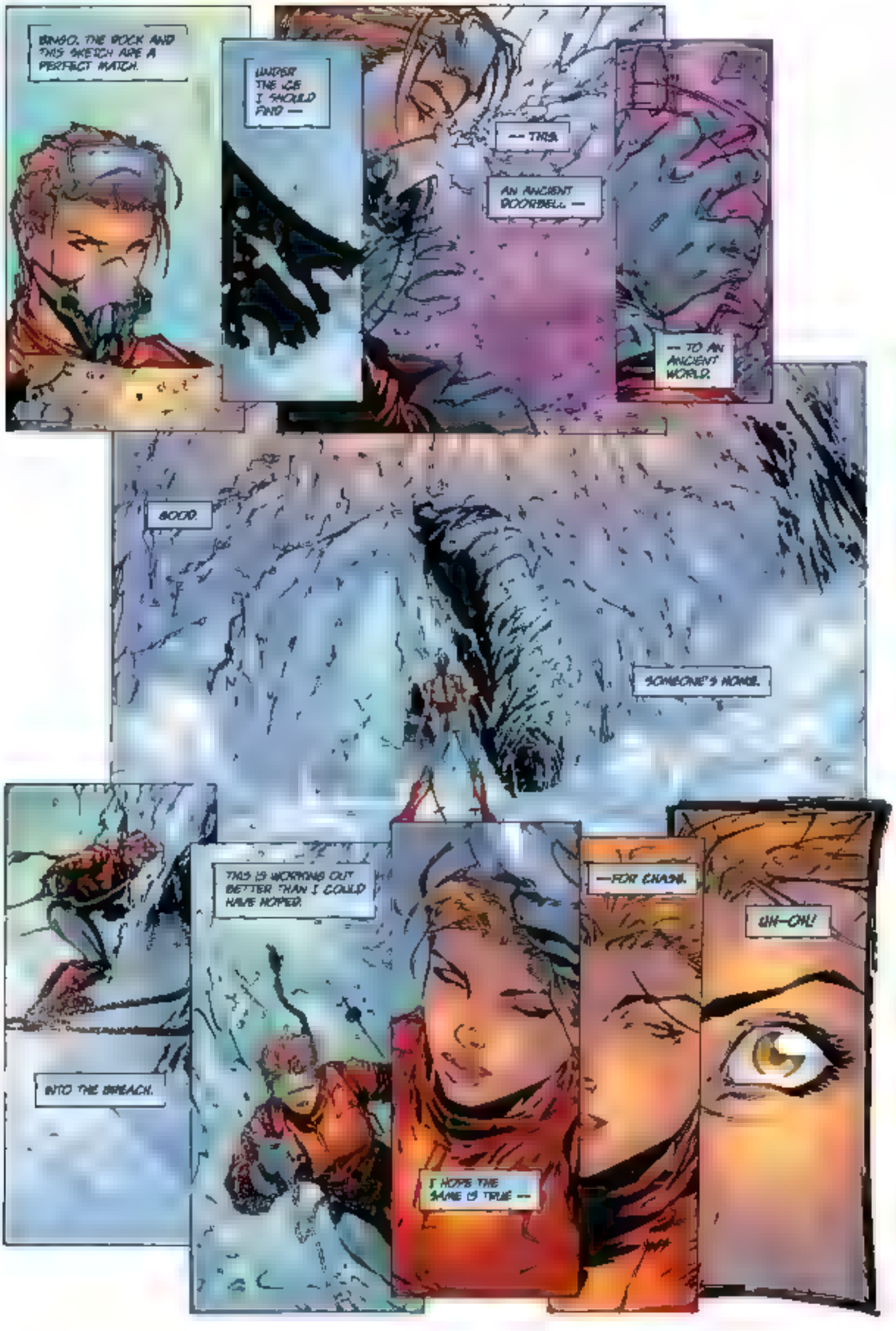
BAM BLAM BDAM

AIEEEE!
TAKA TAKA TASSSSH
B-DOOOOM
DAMN, GIRL. YOU ARE SOMETHING ELSE.
YOU BETTER KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE O' YOURSELF
CUZ I WOULDN'T WANNA LIVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT YOU.

I HIT THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE DOING A FAST 120.
MOST COULDN'T HANDLE A SPEED LIKE THAT.
GOOD THING DADDY GOT ME THE BEST SKI INSTRUCTORS MONEY COULD BUY WHEN I WAS A KID.
BUT THE PITCH ON THIS MOUNTAIN IS STRAIGHT DOWN.
AND IF I SO MUCH AS BREATE WRONG
-- I'M DEAD.

NORMALLY, I LOOK FOR THINGS THE AVERAGE PERSON HASN'T HEARD OF.
THINGS LIKE THE LOCH NESS MONSTER AND ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN ARE TOO COMMON.
MOST LIKELY FANTASIES.
BUT THERE'S ONE LEGEND THAT IS SO UNLIKELY THAT MOST CONSIDER IT A FANTASY AS WELL.
SHANGRI-LA. THE MOST FANTASTIC PLACE ON EARTH.
AND I KNOW WHERE IT IS.

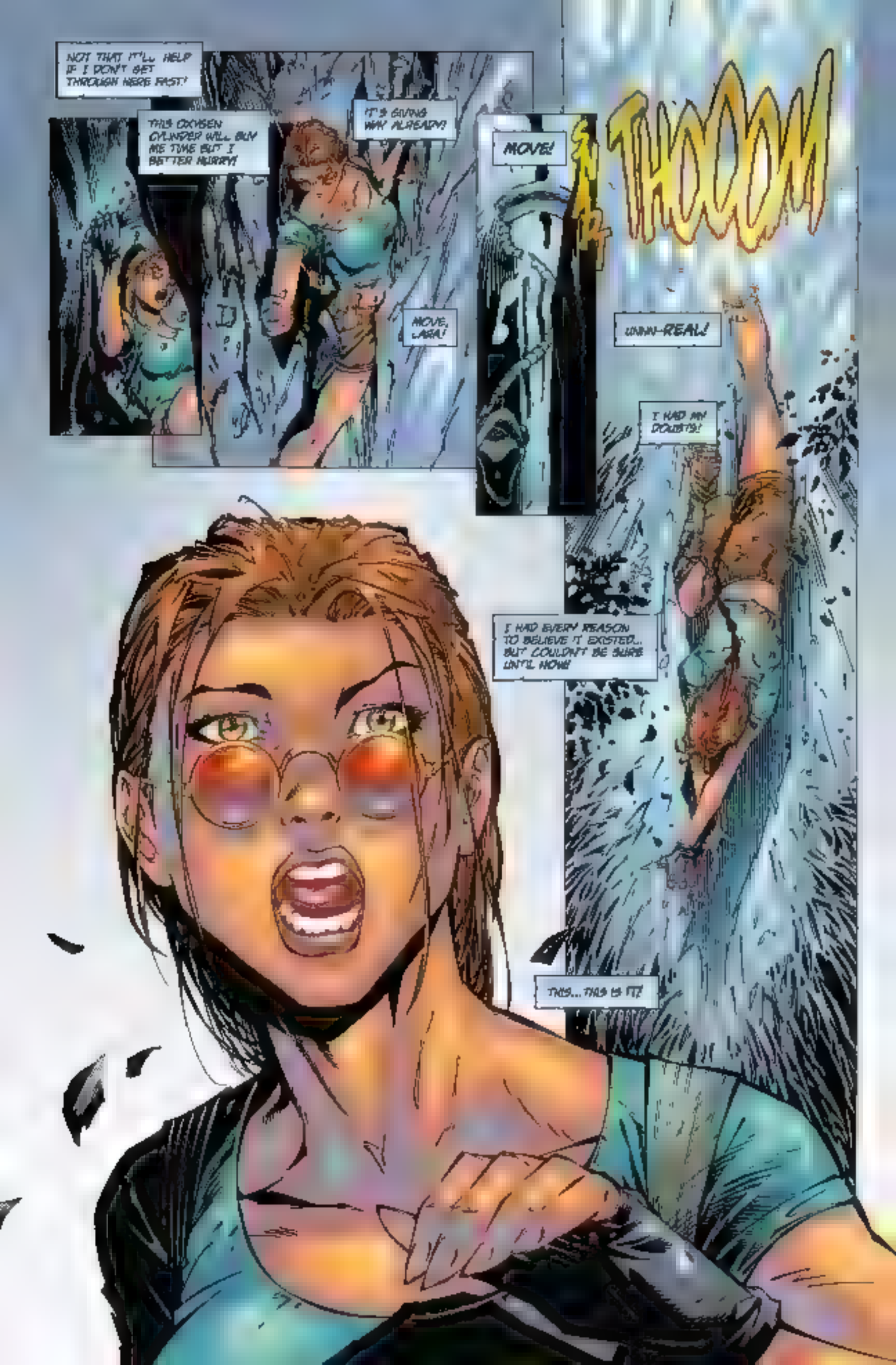
FOR CENTURIES, PEOPLE HAVE COMBED THE AREA AROUND MT. EVEREST LOOKING FOR THE ETERNAL CITY.
WRONG MOUNTAIN.
THIS IS KANCHENJUNGA, WHICH MEANS "FIVE SIGNIFICANT SNOW TREASURIES"
ITS SOUTHERN WALL IS CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE TO CLIMB BECAUSE IT'S LAYERED WITH PERPETUAL, IMPENETRABLE FOG.
NO WAY TO ACCESS IT.
EXCEPT THIS ONE.


BINGO. THE ROCK AND THIS SKETCH ARE A PERFECT MATCH.
UNDER THE ICE I SHOULD FIND —
— THIS.
AN ANCIENT DOORBELL —
— TO AN ANCIENT WORLD.
GOOD.
SOMEONE'S HOME.
THIS IS WORKING OUT BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED.
—FOR CHASE.
UH—OH!
INTO THE BREACH.
I HOPE THE SAME IS TRUE —

KATTCH
DEATH TRAPS!
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T BE THIS EASY!
CAN'T POSSIBLY STOP. ONLY WAY TO BEAT THIS
IS TO SPEED UP
-- AND TRY TO SQUEEZE THROUGH ON THE HIGH ROAD
UHN!
MORE TROUBLE!
AND THIS ONE --
I CAN'T GET OUT OF!

SPLOOSH
NO WAY TO SURVIVE THIS.
AT LEAST NOT WHEN THIS WAS BUILT.
BUT I STILL HAVE MY COVENEN.
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FOLLOW THE CURRENT —
— TO THE LOGICAL END.

MADE IT.
ONE PROBLEM SOLVED —
— WITH SEVERAL NEW ONES TO TAKE ITS PLACE.
I'M SOAKING WET AND IT'S COLD.
WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HYPOTHERMIA KICKS IN.
EITHER I FIND THIS WARM CAVE I'M LOOKING FOR, OR NEW!
THESE WALLS!
THEY'RE MOVING!
GOOD THING I KNOCKED OFF THE DOUGHNUTS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO.


NOT THAT IT'LL HELP IF I DON'T GET THROUGH HERE FAST!
THIS OXYGEN CYLINDER WILL BUY ME TIME BUT I BETTER HURRY!
IT'S GIVING WAY ALREADY!
MOVE, LARA!
MOVE!
THOOM
UNNH-REAL!
I HAD MY DOUBTS!
I HAD EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE IT EXISTED... BUT COULDN'T BE SURE UNTIL NOW!
THIS... THIS IS IT!

THE IMMORTAL CITY!
PARADISE!
SHANGRI-LA!

HAR-RARRRH!
HOLY—!
TOO FAST!
CAN'T GET THE SHOT OFF!
I'M DONE FOR!
TO BE CONTINUED

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

ART
BILLY TAN

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
[redacted]

COVER ART
[redacted]LLY TAN

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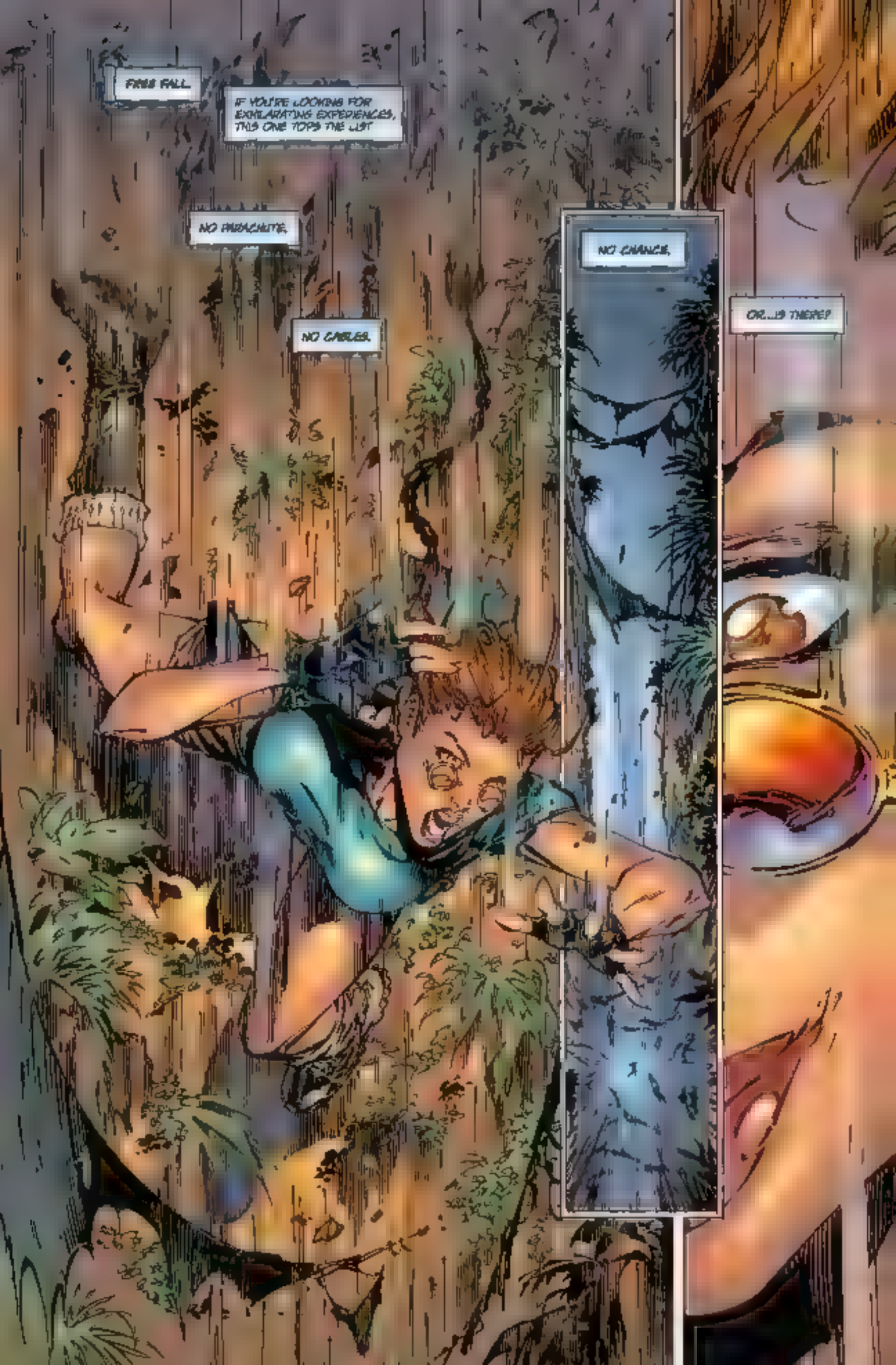
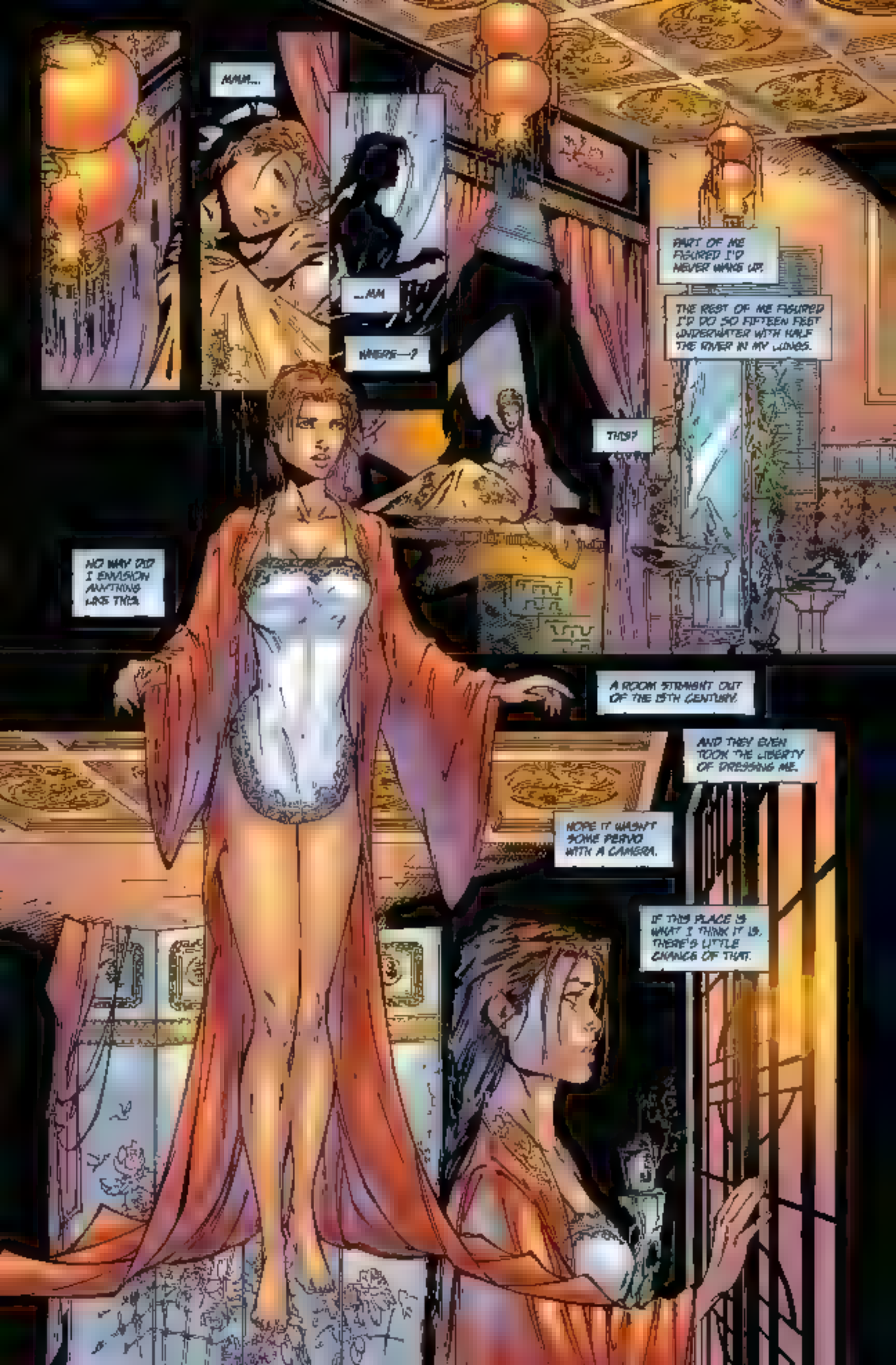

FREE FALL.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR EXHILARATING EXPERIENCES, THIS ONE TOPS THE LIST
NO PARACHUTE.
NO CABLES.
NO CHANCE.
OR...IS THERE?

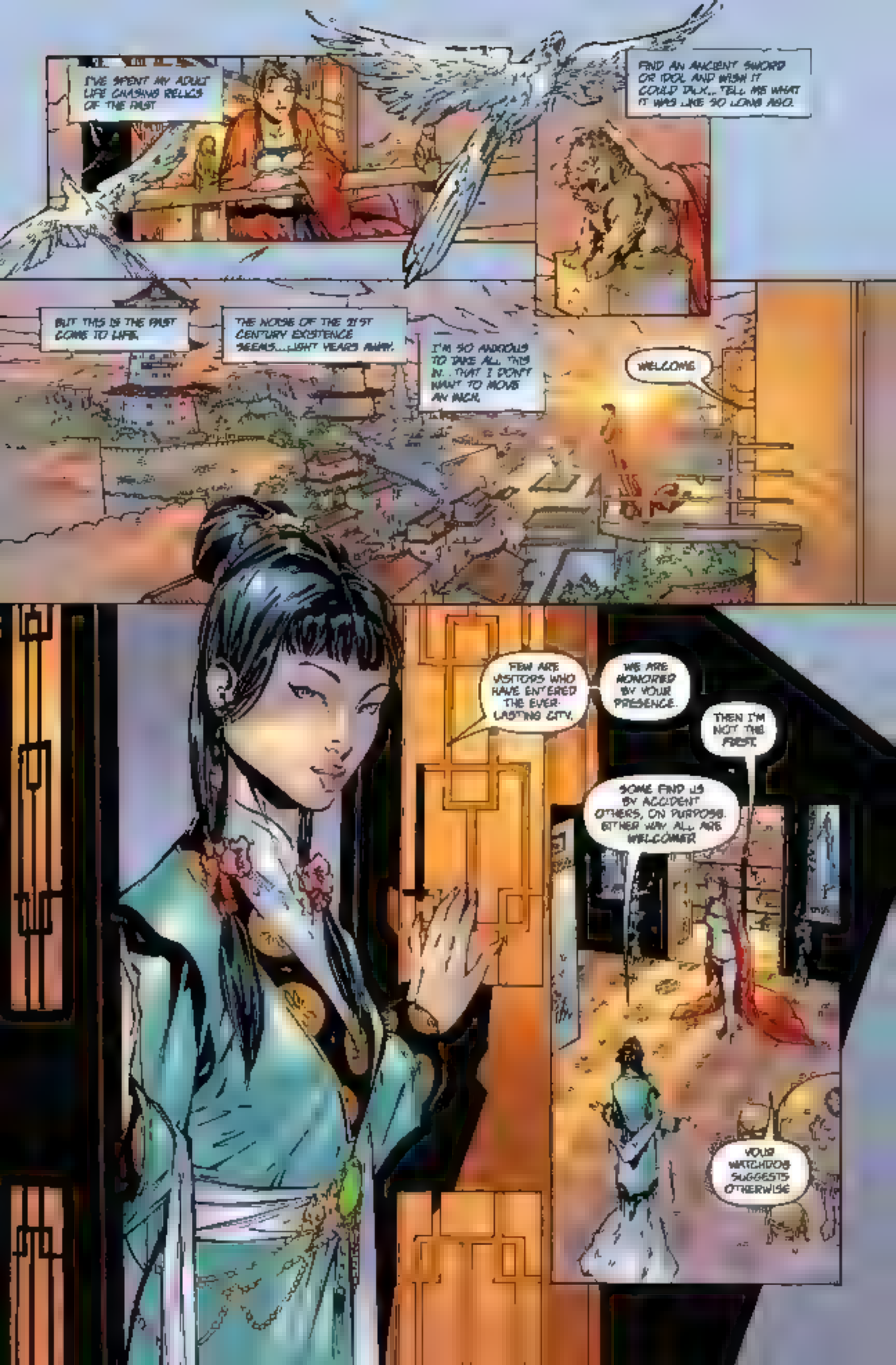
WATER.

NOT GREAT, AND FROM A HEIGHT LIKE THIS, IT WILL STILL HURT PLENTY.

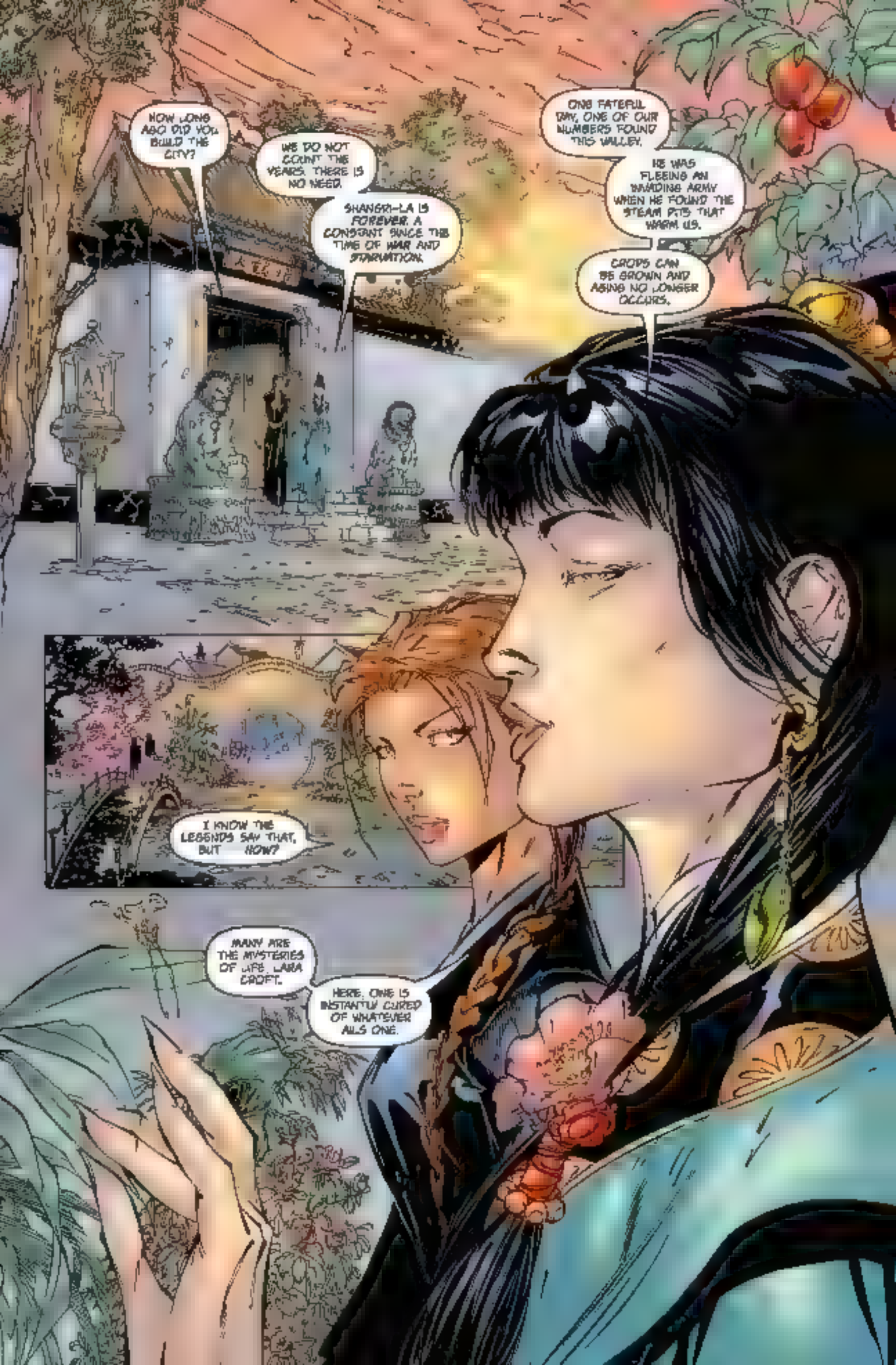
BUT IT'S A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN KISSING THE ROCKS BELOW.


MMM...
...MM
WHERE—?
PART OF ME FIGURED I'D NEVER WAKE UP.
THE REST OF ME FIGURED I'D DO SO FIFTEEN FEET UNDERWATER WITH HALF THE RIVER IN MY LUNGS.
THIS?
NO WAY DID I ENVISION ANYTHING LIKE THIS.
A ROOM STRAIGHT OUT OF THE 15TH CENTURY.
AND THEY EVEN TOOK THE LIBERTY OF DRESSING ME.
NOPE IT WASN'T SOME PERVO WITH A CAMERA.
IF THIS PLACE IS WHAT I THINK IT IS, THERE'S LITTLE CHANCE OF THAT.

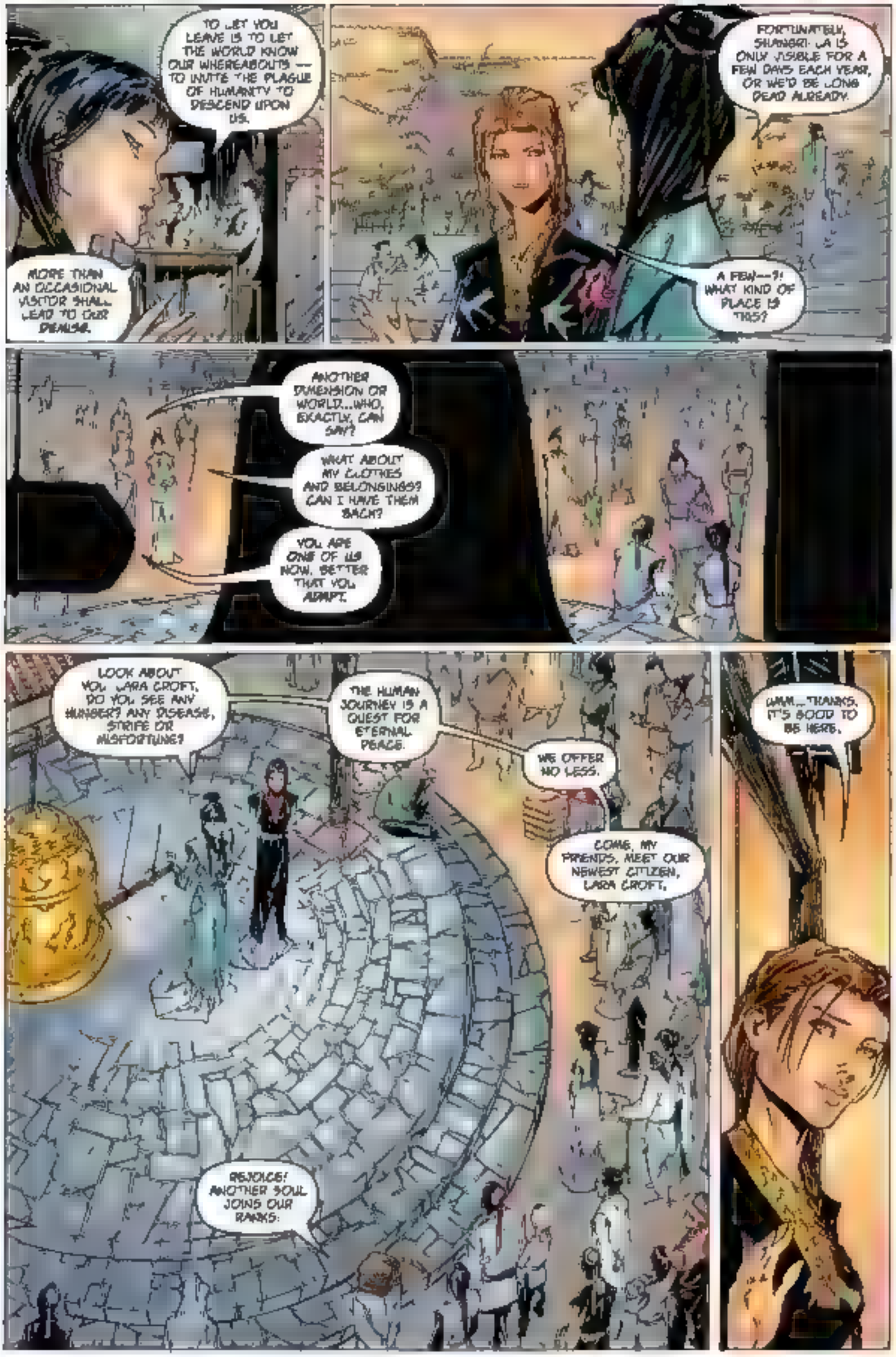
I WAS RIGHT!
THE ETERNAL CITY THAT TIME IGNORES.
GOD, IT'S FAR MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I DARED HOPE.
SO QUIET. SO PEACEFUL. THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF TRANQUILITY.


I'VE SPENT MY ADULT LIFE CHASING RELICS OF THE PAST
FIND AN ANCIENT SWORD OR IDOL AND WISH IT COULD TALK... TELL ME WHAT IT WAS LIKE SO LONG AGO.
BUT THIS IS THE PAST COME TO LIFE.
THE NOISE OF THE 21ST CENTURY EXISTENCE SEEMS...LIGHT YEARS AWAY.
I'M SO ANXIOUS TO TAKE ALL THIS IN...THAT I DON'T WANT TO MOVE AN INCH.
WELCOME.
FEW ARE VISITORS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE EVER-LASTING CITY.
WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE.
THEN I'M NOT THE FIRST.
SOME FIND US BY ACCIDENT OTHERS, ON PURPOSE. EITHER WAY ALL ARE WELCOME.
YOUR WATCHDOG SUGGESTS OTHERWISE

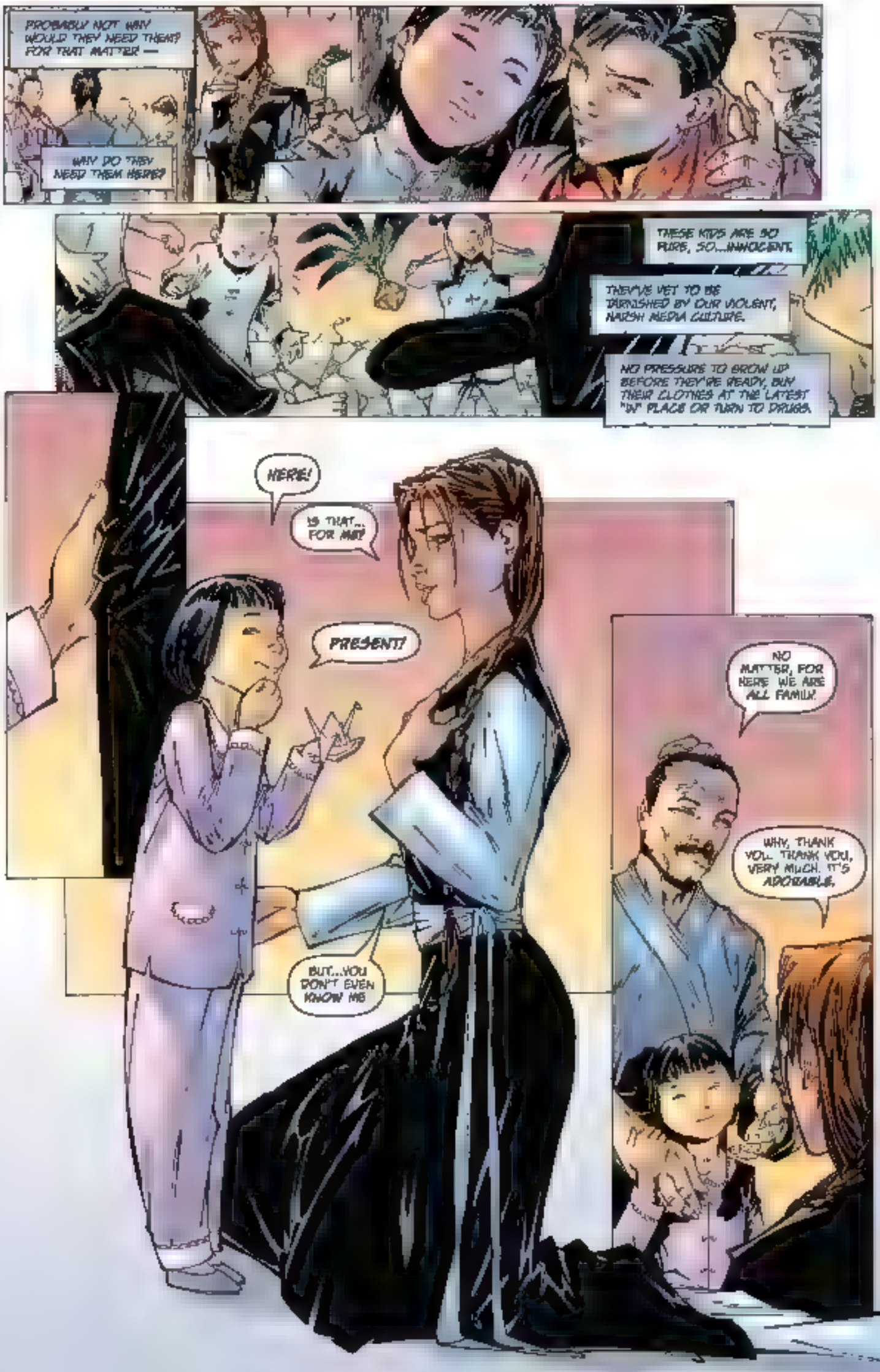
FEN TAI, THE GUARDIAN, I APOLOGIZE FOR THE SAVAGERY OF HIS ATTACK.
HE SHOULD NOT HAVE THROWN YOU OFF THE CLIFF.
COME. SHANGRI-LA AWAITS YOU.
I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE HERE?
ARE THE LEGENDS OF IMMORTALITY TRUE?
DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCEPT OF WHAT THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS BECOME?
WE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1200 STRONG, MUCH AS WHEN WE CONSTRUCTED THE CITY. ALL THOSE WHO FOUND US DECIDED TO STAY.
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THE EXPLORERS LEFT?
WE OFFER A SERENITY AND SENSE OF PEACE UNEQUALED, LARA CROFT. WHY WOULD ANYONE ABANDON THAT?
YOU KNOW MY NAME.
THANKS TO YOUR IDENTIFICATION.
I AM AKI'TIN. COME.

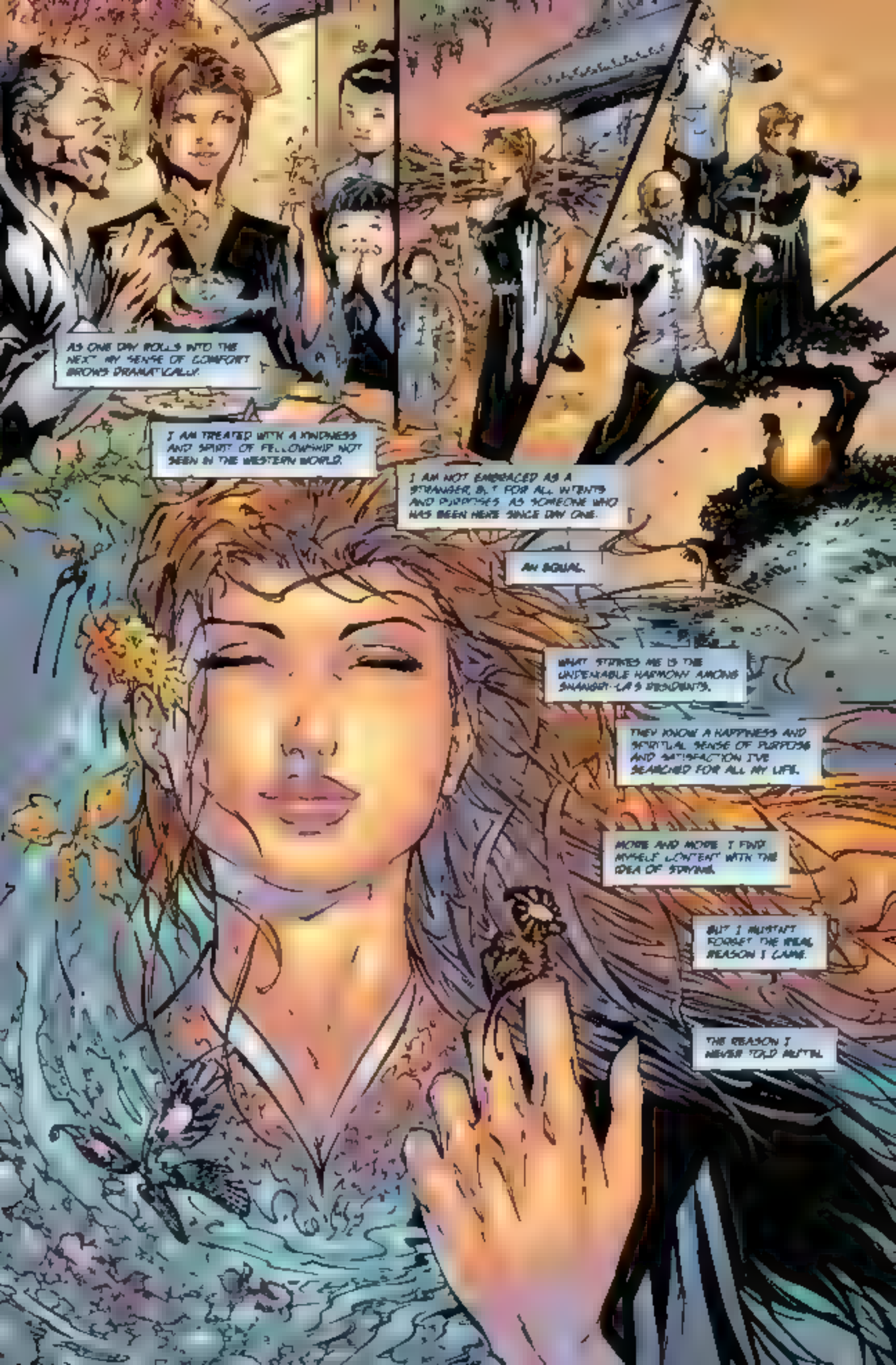

HOW LONG AGO DID YOU BUILD THE CITY?
WE DO NOT COUNT THE YEARS. THERE IS NO NEED.
SHANGRI-LA IS FOREVER. A CONSTANT SINCE THE TIME OF WAR AND STARVATION.
ONE FATEFUL DAY, ONE OF OUR NUMBERS FOUND THIS VALLEY.
HE WAS FLEEING AN INVADING ARMY WHEN HE FOUND THE STEAM PITS THAT WARM US.
CROPS CAN BE GROWN AND AGING NO LONGER OCCURS.
I KNOW THE LEGENDS SAY THAT, BUT HOW?
MANY ARE THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE, LARA CROFT.
HERE, ONE IS INSTANTLY CURED OF WHATEVER AILS ONE.

YOU'RE SAYING THIS VALLEY.. THESE MISTS...HAVE SOME KIND OF HEALING POWER, MU'TAN?
PERHAPS.
PERHAPS IT IS THE POWER OF THE MIND, ABLE TO CONQUER ALL, ONCE IT IS FREE FROM WORRY.
SO ..AS LONG AS I STAY, I NEEDN'T FEAR CANCER OR HEART DISEASE OR... DEATH?
MU'TAN!
OF COURSE IS THAT NOT WHY YOU CAME?
I CAME HERE FOR THE SAKE OF DISCOVERY IT'S WHAT I DO.
I ALSO HOPE ..TO HELP A FRIEND.
I HOPE YOUR FRIEND IS ALREADY HERE. FOR LEAVING US IS NOT AN OPTION.
I KNEW THIS WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
YOU CONSIDER ME A PRISONER!


TO LET YOU LEAVE IS TO LET THE WORLD KNOW OUR WHEREABOUTS — TO INVITE THE PLAGUE OF HUMANITY TO DESCEND UPON US.
MORE THAN AN OCCASIONAL VISITOR SHALL LEAD TO OUR DEMISE.
FORTUNATELY, SHAMBALA IS ONLY VISIBLE FOR A FEW DAYS EACH YEAR, OR WE'D BE LONG DEAD ALREADY.
A FEW—?! WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?
ANOTHER DIMENSION OR WORLD...WHO, EXACTLY, CAN SAY?
WHAT ABOUT MY CLOTHES AND BELONGINGS? CAN I HAVE THEM BACK?
YOU ARE ONE OF US NOW. BETTER THAT YOU ADAPT.
LOOK ABOUT YOU, LARA CROFT. DO YOU SEE ANY HUNGER? ANY DISEASE, STRIFE OR MISFORTUNE?
THE HUMAN JOURNEY IS A QUEST FOR ETERNAL PEACE.
WE OFFER NO LESS.
COME, MY FRIENDS, MEET OUR NEWEST CITIZEN, LARA CROFT.
REJOICE! ANOTHER SOUL JOINS OUR RANKS.
UMM...THANKS. IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE.

THIS FARMER FROM FAR AWAY WAS THE FIRST OUTSIDER TO JOIN US, LARA.
WHETHER IT'S A YOUNG BIRL FROM THE NORTH —
A PILOT FROM THE WEST —
— OR THIS FAMILY FROM JAPAN, ALL ARE WELCOME
INDEED! COME JOIN US IN FOOD AND DRINK.
HEAVEN ON EARTH.
IT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WANT TO BUY IN, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER —
— IF HEAVEN HAS SENTRIES AS WELL?


PROBABLY NOT. WHY WOULD THEY NEED THEM? FOR THAT MATTER —
WHY DO THEY NEED THEM HERE?
THESE KIDS ARE SO PURE, SO...INNOCENT.
THEY'VE YET TO BE TARNISHED BY OUR VIOLENT, NARSH MEDIA CULTURE.
NO PRESSURE TO GROW UP BEFORE THEY'RE READY, BUY THEIR CLOTHES AT THE LATEST "IN" PLACE OR TURN TO DRUGS.
HERE!
IS THAT... FOR ME?
PRESENT!
BUT...YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME
NO MATTER, FOR HERE WE ARE ALL FAMILY.
WHY, THANK YOU. THANK YOU, VERY MUCH. IT'S ADORABLE.


AS ONE DAY ROLLS INTO THE NEXT, MY SENSE OF COMFORT GROWS DRAMATICALLY.
I AM TREATED WITH A KINDNESS AND SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP NOT SEEN IN THE WESTERN WORLD.
I AM NOT EMBRACED AS A STRANGER, BUT FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES AS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN HERE SINCE DAY ONE.
AN EQUAL.
WHAT STRIKES ME IS THE UNDENIABLE HARMONY AMONG SHANGRI-LA'S RESIDENTS.
THEY KNOW A HAPPINESS AND SPIRITUAL SENSE OF PURPOSE AND SATISFACTION I'VE SEARCHED FOR ALL MY LIFE.
MORE AND MORE, I FIND MYSELF CONTENT WITH THE IDEA OF STAYING.
BUT I MUSTN'T FORGET THE REAL REASON I CAME.
THE REASON I NEVER TOLD ANITA.

D'YA BELIEVE IT?
LARA ROPES ME INTO ONE CRAZY SCHEME AFTER ANOTHER AND DO I EVER SAY NO?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS SPEAK AND OL' CHASE CARVER JUMPS IN HEAD FIRST, READY TO DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS!
I EVEN DYED MY HAIR TO BLEND IN FOR THIS JOB, AND WHAT DO I GET FOR A PAY OFF?
ZIP!
SHE'S LOADED WHILE I'M CONTINUALLY, ETERNALLY BROKE!
ALL I ASK IS THE OCCASIONAL TRINKET I CAN SELL TO A MUSEUM OR SOMETHING TO KEEP ME PLUSH!
'COURSE, THERE'S ONE MORE THING I WANT, BUT LARA WON'T PROVIDE IT.
YET

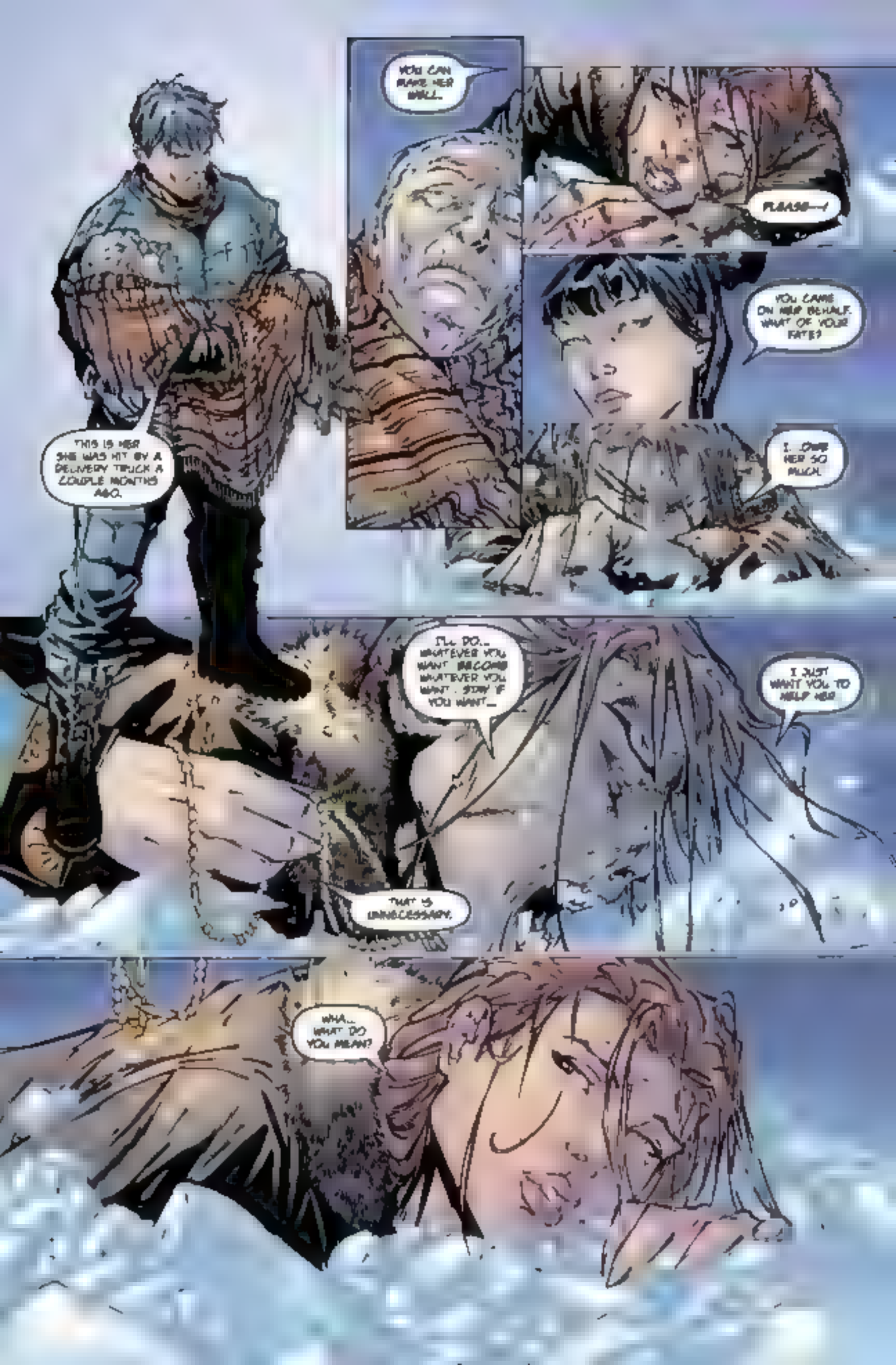
I OWE SOMEBODY, AND IT'S TIME TO PAY THAT DEBT
— I'M NOT HERE FOR ME.
IF IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF MY OWN WISHES —
I MIGHT VERY WELL STAY.
DESPITE THE THRILL OF DISCOVERING THIS PLACE
GOOD NIGHT, SWEETY.
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU.
GOT MY GEAR AND IT'S TIME TO MOVE.
MY ONLY PROBLEM —
WILL BE GETTING PAST THE WATCHDOGS.

WISH I HAD MY PISTOLS.
NOT TO MENTION MY BOOTS AND SOME CLOTHES!
THESE BEASTS ARE FASTER THAN I AM.
IF I DON'T GET A BREAK SOON...
-- I'M DONE.
CLOSE IN AND SURROUND HER!
DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY --
-- TO STOP HER!

YEEOW! THE ROCKS ARE CUTTING MY FEET TO SHREDS!
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE?
THAT BOUGHT ME SOME TIME!
THERE'S PROBABLY ONLY TEN PEOPLE ALIVE WHO COULD CLIMB THIS WALL WITHOUT EQUIPMENT.
THANK GOD I'M ONE OF THEM!
BREEE
HOW 'BOUT THAT.
THAT PERSONAL SATELLITE IMPLANT LIL JARA HAD JUST KICKED IN.
SHE'S ON THE MOVE —
AND WE ARE TOO.

WHERE THE HELL IS CHASE?
I'VE GOT A MINUTE MAYBE TWO BEFORE---!
OH SH---!
RAHAHHHR!
EASY, MY PET REMEMBER THAT WE DO NOT KILL THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO LEAVE.
NO, A FAR DIFFERENT FATE AWAITS.
THEY BECOME FEN TAL
GUARDIANS.
RELAX. EMBRACE THE CHANGE THE NECKLACE INITIATES.
NO!
CHAAAASE!
AAA!
CHASE!
NUHH!

CALL OFF THE GRIZZLIES AND BACK OFF BEFORE I VENTILATE YOUR KIMONO!
BY THE WINTER'S MOON!
SOMY PUT, DRAGON LADY!
CHASE, STOP! THEY AREN'T THE ONES DOING ANYTHING WRONG -
I AM!
PLEASE MUTTIN! HEAR ME OUT!
SPEAK.
"WHEN I WAS A CHILD I HAD A NANNY NAMED MRS. BAKER WHO WAS EVERY BIT AS DEAR TO ME
". AS MY OWN MOTHER. AND WHEN MY TRUE MOTHER DIED —
"— SHE WAS ALL I HAD."
WHAT IS IT YOU DESIRE, WESTERNER?


YOU CAN SAVE HER WILL.
PLEASE—!
YOU CAME ON HER BEHALF. WHAT OF YOUR FATE?
I...LOVE HER SO MUCH.
THIS IS HER. SHE WAS HIT BY A DELIVERY TRUCK A COUPLE MONTHS AGO.
I'LL DO... WHATEVER YOU WANT. BECOME WHATEVER YOU WANT. STAY IF YOU WANT...
I JUST WANT YOU TO HELP HER.
THAT IS UNNECESSARY.
WHA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SHE MEANT I COULD GO...THAT SHE WOULD TAKE CARE OF MRS. DENNISON.
SO WE LEFT, KNOWING SHANGRI-LA WOULD RECEDE INTO THE MISTS FOR ANOTHER YEAR.
ALL I HAD WAS THE MEMORY OF THOSE I ENCOUNTERED --
-- AND THE DREAM OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.
THE END

JUNGLE OF HONDURAS PART 1

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
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COVER PENCILS
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JONATHAN SIBAL

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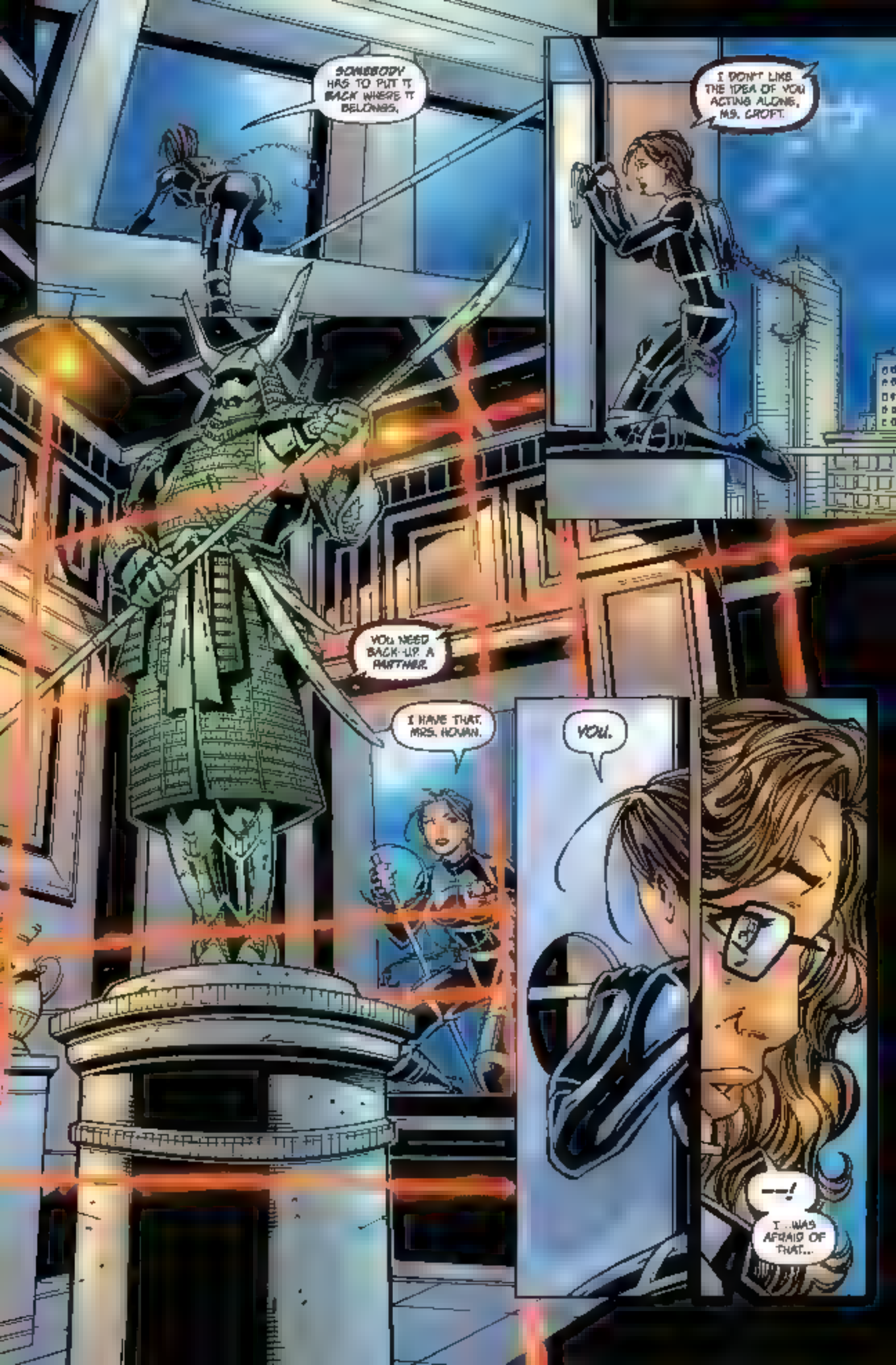
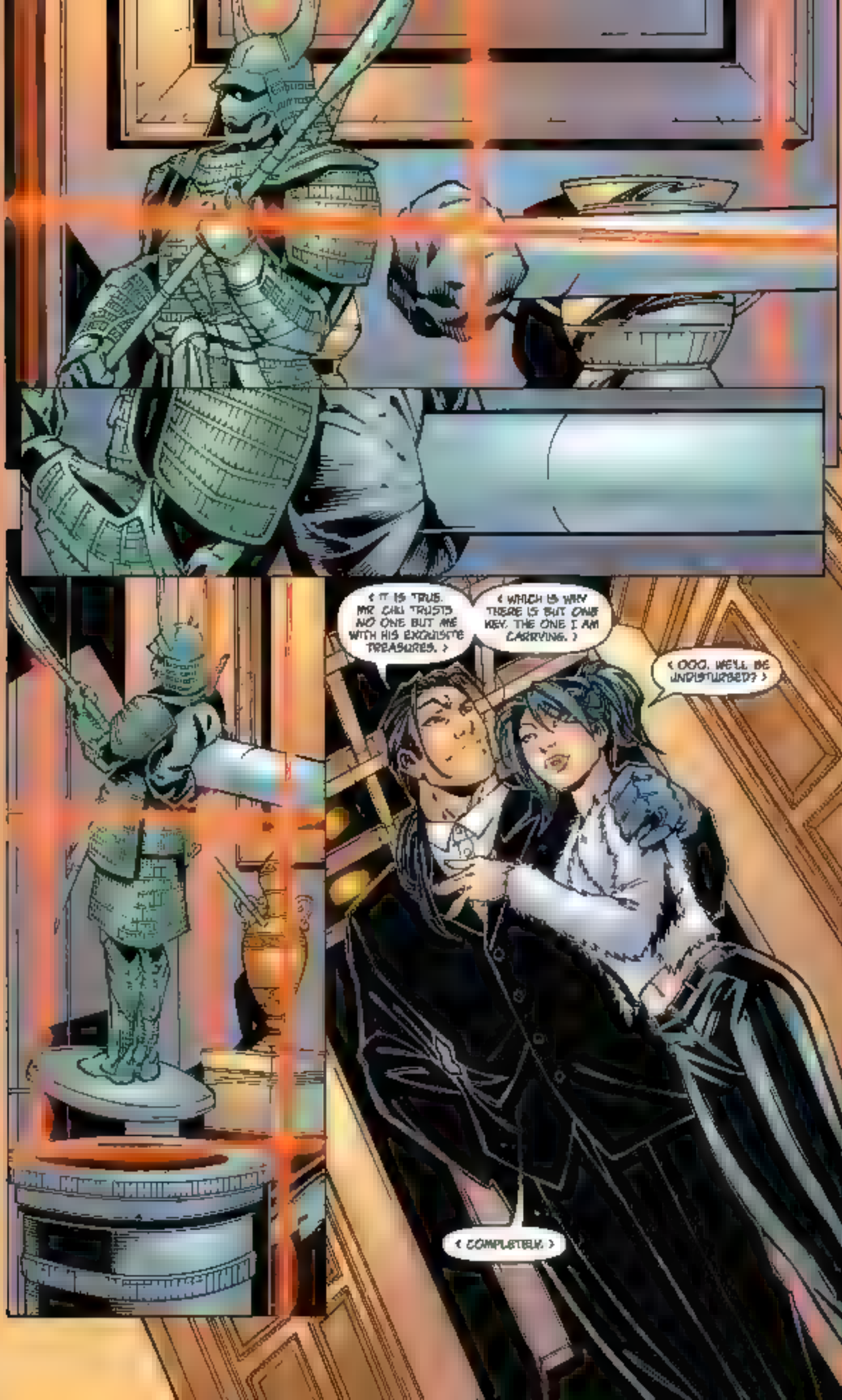
JONATHAN D. SMITH

I'M LARA CROFT.
I UNEARTH THE MOST UNIQUE COVETED, EXCITING TREASURES ON EARTH.
THE MOST DESIRABLE THINGS IMAGINABLE, NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY ARE OR WHEREVER THEY MIGHT BE FOUND.
IN THIS CASE. TOKYO.

I'M ON THE ROOF.
LET'S HOPE THOSE YEARS OF GYMNASTIC TRAINING PAY OFF.
MS. CROFT, I SIMPLY MUST REGISTER MY OBJECTIONS!
I TOLD YOU TO EXPECT THE UNUSUAL.
UNUSUAL, YES.
ILLEGAL, NO!
I DON'T MIND AIDING YOU IN YOUR PURSUITS, MS. CROFT...
...BUT I DRAW THE LINE AT INCARCERATION.
NOT ALL THE WORLD'S TREASURES ARE HIDDEN IN ANCIENT RUINS, MRS. NOLAN.
SOME ARE IN HUMAN HANDS.
WHICH MEANS THEY REQUIRE MORE...EXTREME METHODS OF RECOVERY.

NINETY-NINE TIMES OUT OF A HUNDRED I WOULDN'T THINK OF TAKING SOMETHING FROM A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL.
BUT WE'RE TALKING YAKUZA HERE.
THE JAPANESE MOB.
FACT IS, IN GRABBING THIS JADE STATUE, THEY LEFT NUMEROUS BODIES IN THEIR WAKE.
AND THEY DIDN'T EXACTLY GET IT BY LEGITIMATE MEANS.

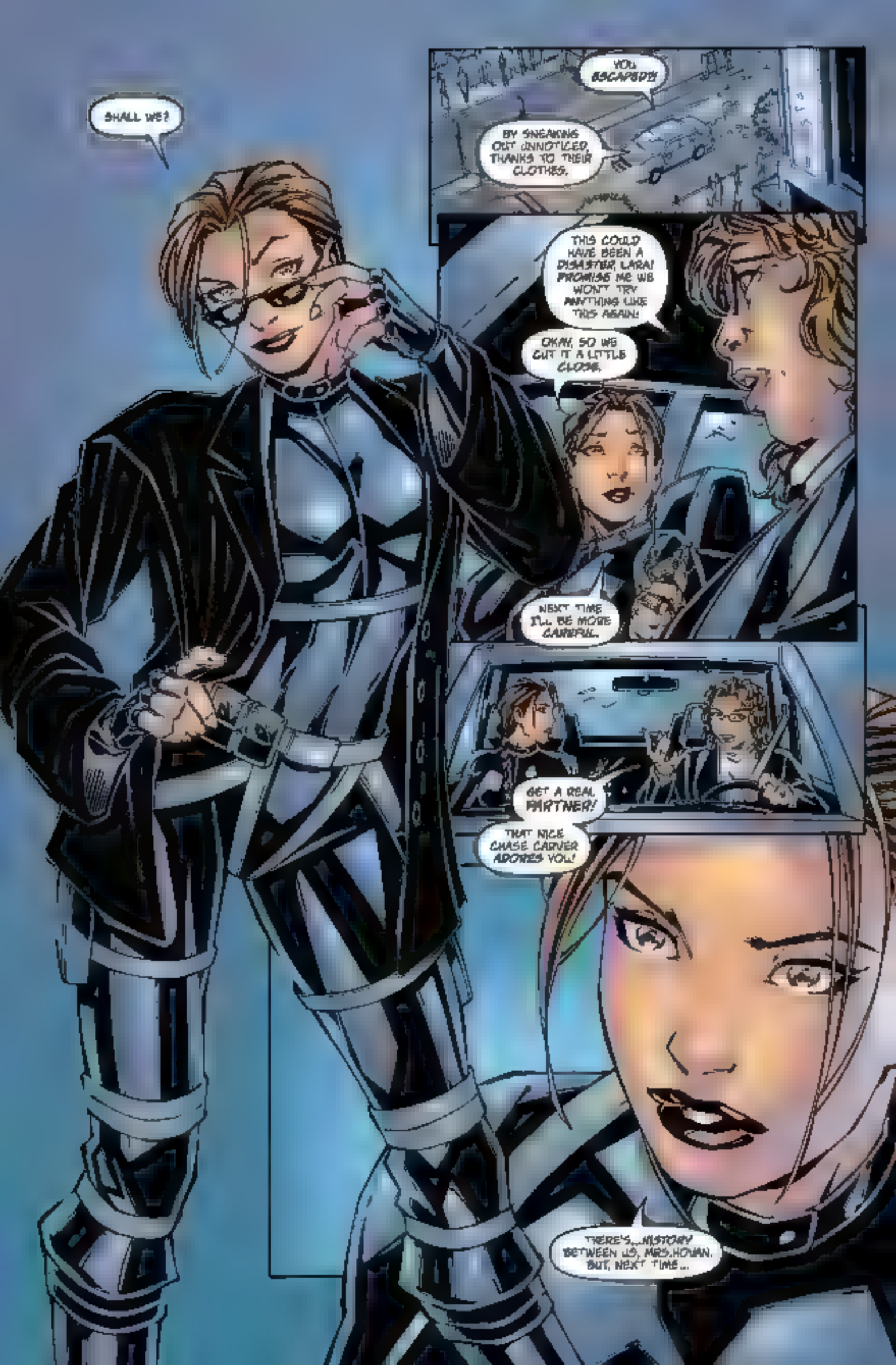

SOMEBODY HAS TO PUT IT BACK WHERE IT BELONGS.
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU ACTING ALONE, MS. CROFT.
YOU NEED BACK-UP. A PARTNER.
I HAVE THAT, MRS. HOWARD.
YOU.
—!
I ...WAS AFRAID OF THAT...


< IT IS TRUE. MR CHU TRUSTS NO ONE BUT ME WITH HIS EXQUISITE TREASURES. >
< WHICH IS WHY THERE IS BUT ONE KEY. THE ONE I AM CARRYING. >
< OOO. WE'LL BE UNDISTURBED? >
< COMPLETELY. >

(IMPOSSIBLE!)
THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY SAID ABOUT ELVIS UNTIL I FOUND HIM IN THAT TACKY TEXAS TRAILER PARK.
BUDDA BUDDA
BUDDA
HE LIKES GUNS TOO. REACTED THE SAME WAY, IN FACT
MS. CROFT!
GO TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT! I'LL BRING THE CAR AROUND!

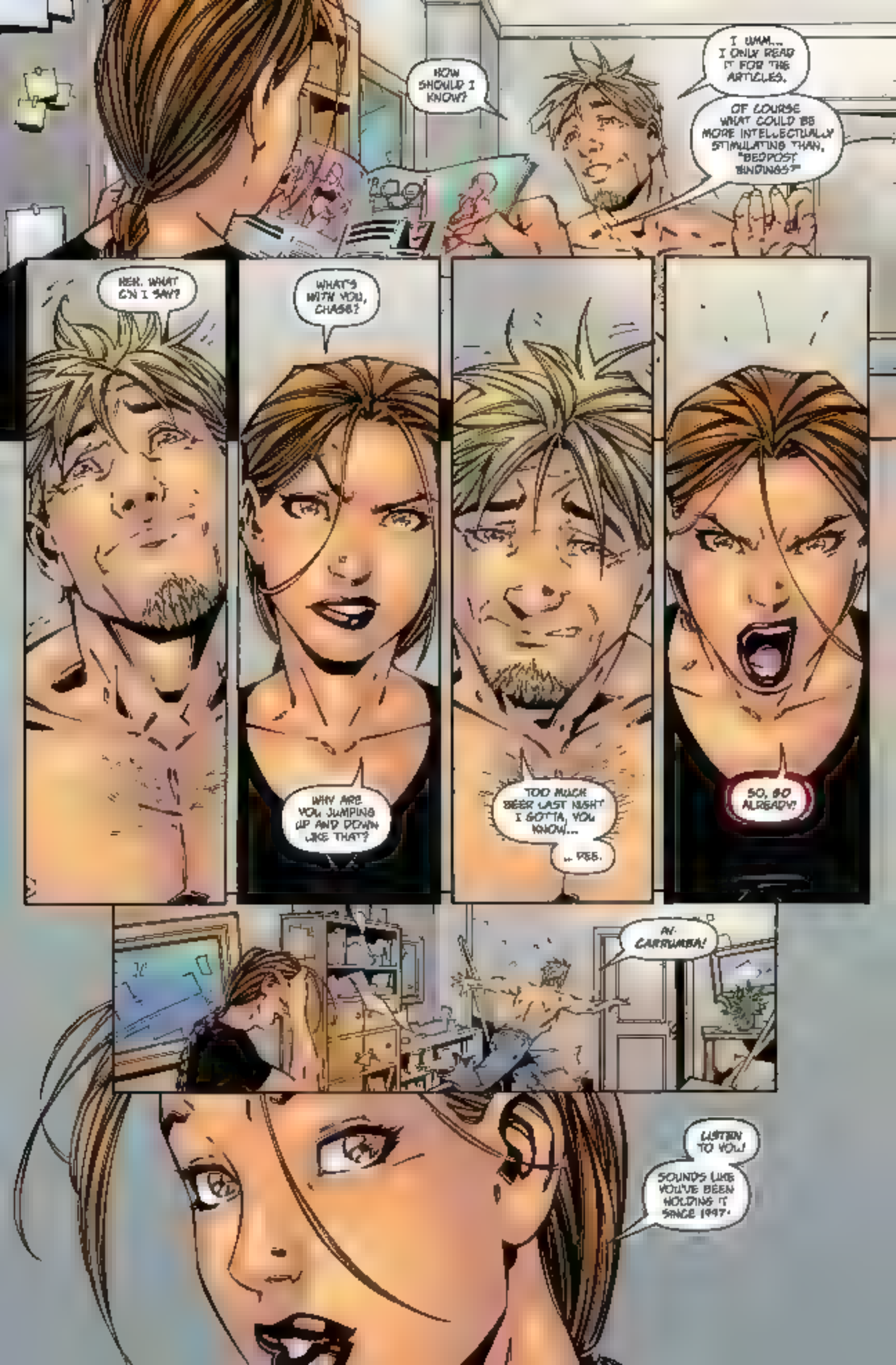
SOUNDS GOOD, MRS. HOWARD.
IF I MANAGE TO GET THERE —
CHA-KAT
TAKKATA
— IT'LL SOUND EVEN BETTER.
TAKTKATA
TAKT
MS. CROFT?
ARE YOU THERE?
LARA?!

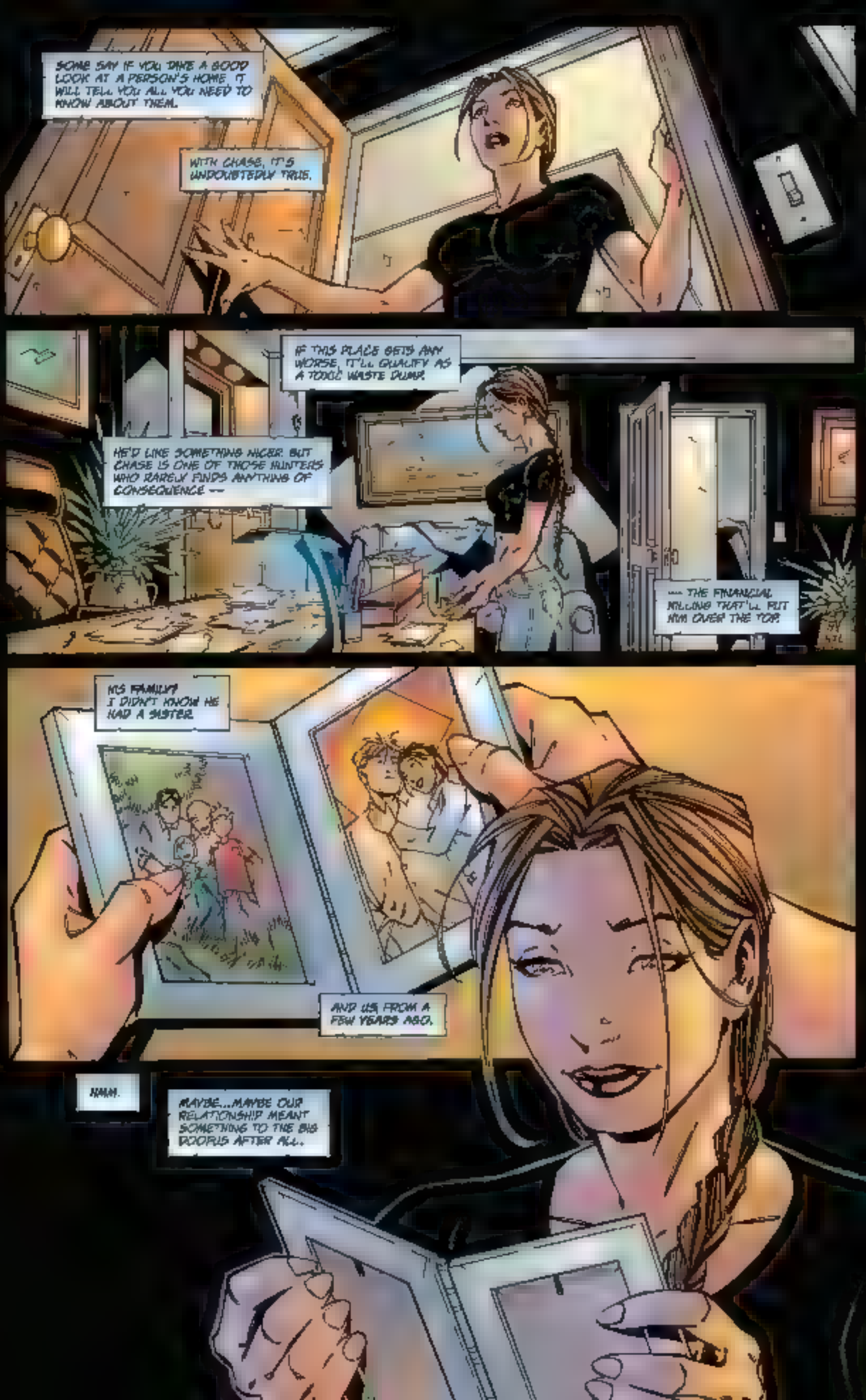
‹ HURRY! SHE ENTERED THIS BUILDING! ›
‹ WE HAVE IT SURROUNDED! THERE IS NO WAY SHE CAN ESCAPE! ›
KRAKK
KRAKK
THERE IS IF I LOOK LIKE ONE OF YOU MOOKS!
LARA?
PLEASE, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...
‹ AMERICAN. ›
OH, MY—!

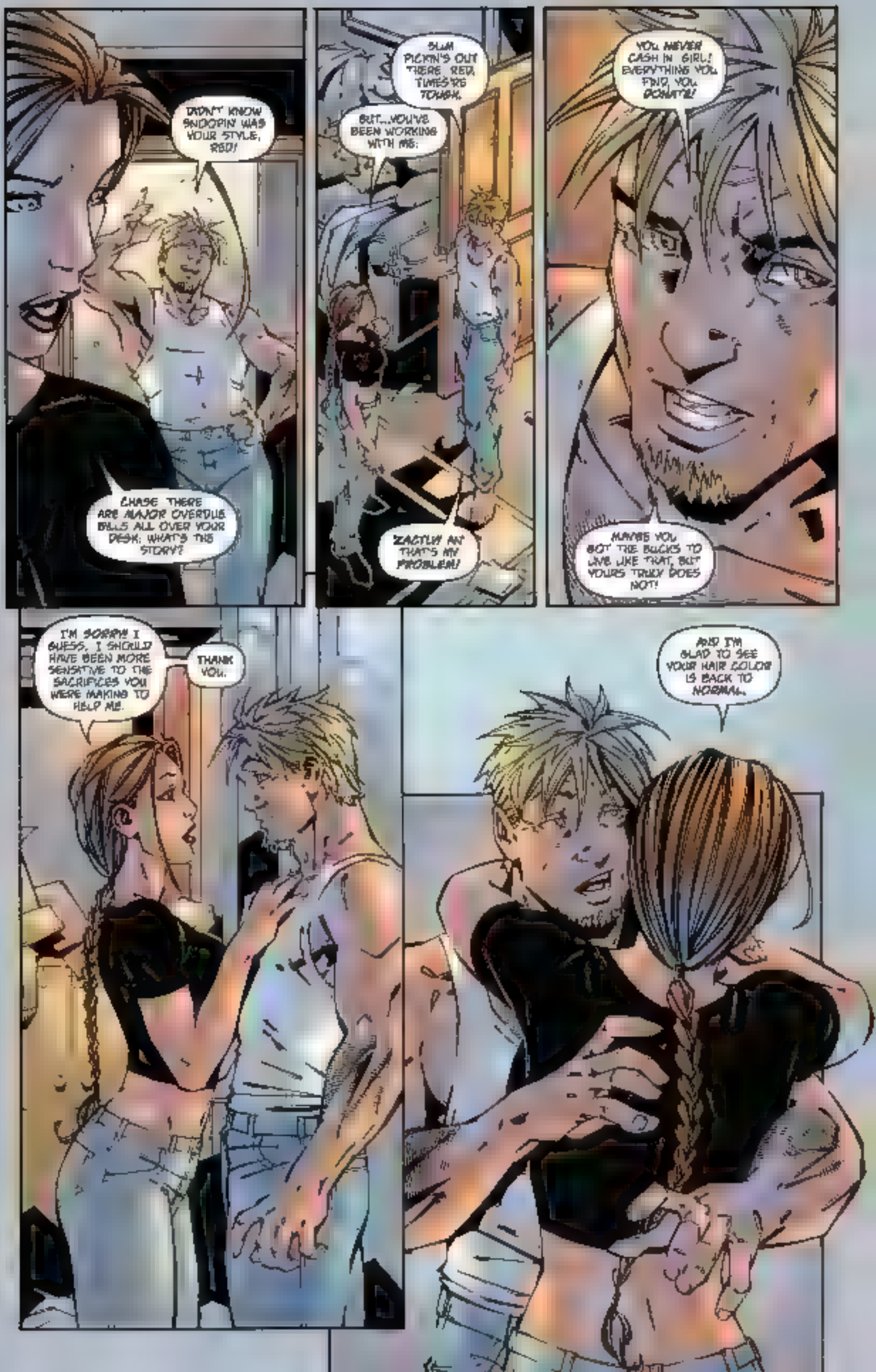

SHALL WE?
YOU ESCAPED!
BY SNEAKING OUT UNNOTICED, THANKS TO THEIR CLOTHES.
THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A DISASTER, LARA! PROMISE ME WE WON'T TRY ANYTHING LIKE THIS AGAIN!
OKAY, SO WE CUT IT A LITTLE CLOSE.
NEXT TIME I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL.
GET A REAL PARTNER!
THAT NICE CHASE CARVER ADORES YOU!
THERE'S...HISTORY BETWEEN US, MRS. HOWARD. BUT, NEXT TIME...

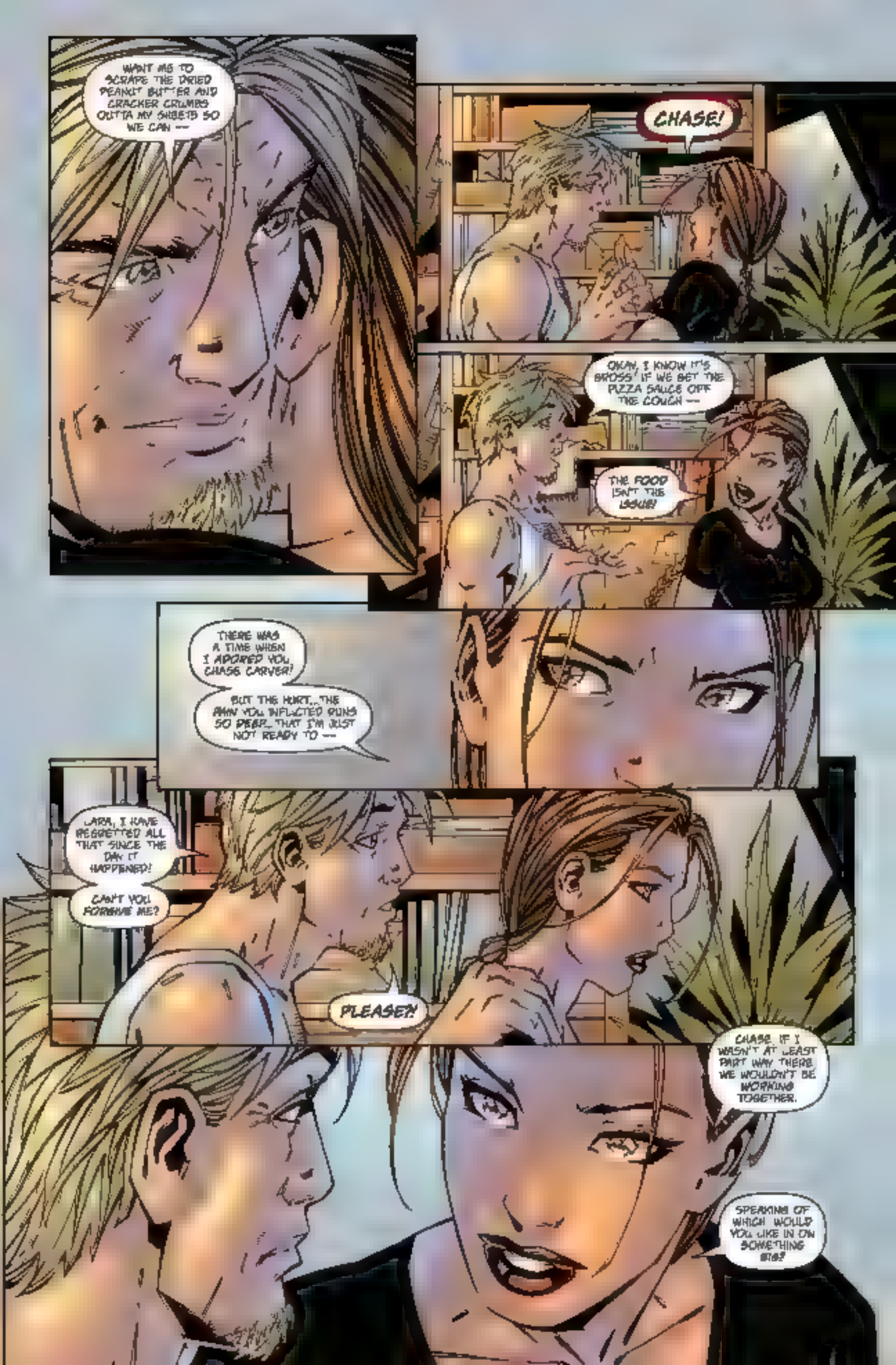
"...BRINGING CHASE ALONG MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A BAD IDEA."
AMAZING.
WITH A LIFESTYLE LIKE YOURS, LIVING IN THE LUXURIOUS CONFINES OF A PENTHOUSE SUITE —
— I'M SURPRISED THERE ISN'T A BEVY OF WOMEN WORSHIPING AT YOUR FEET.

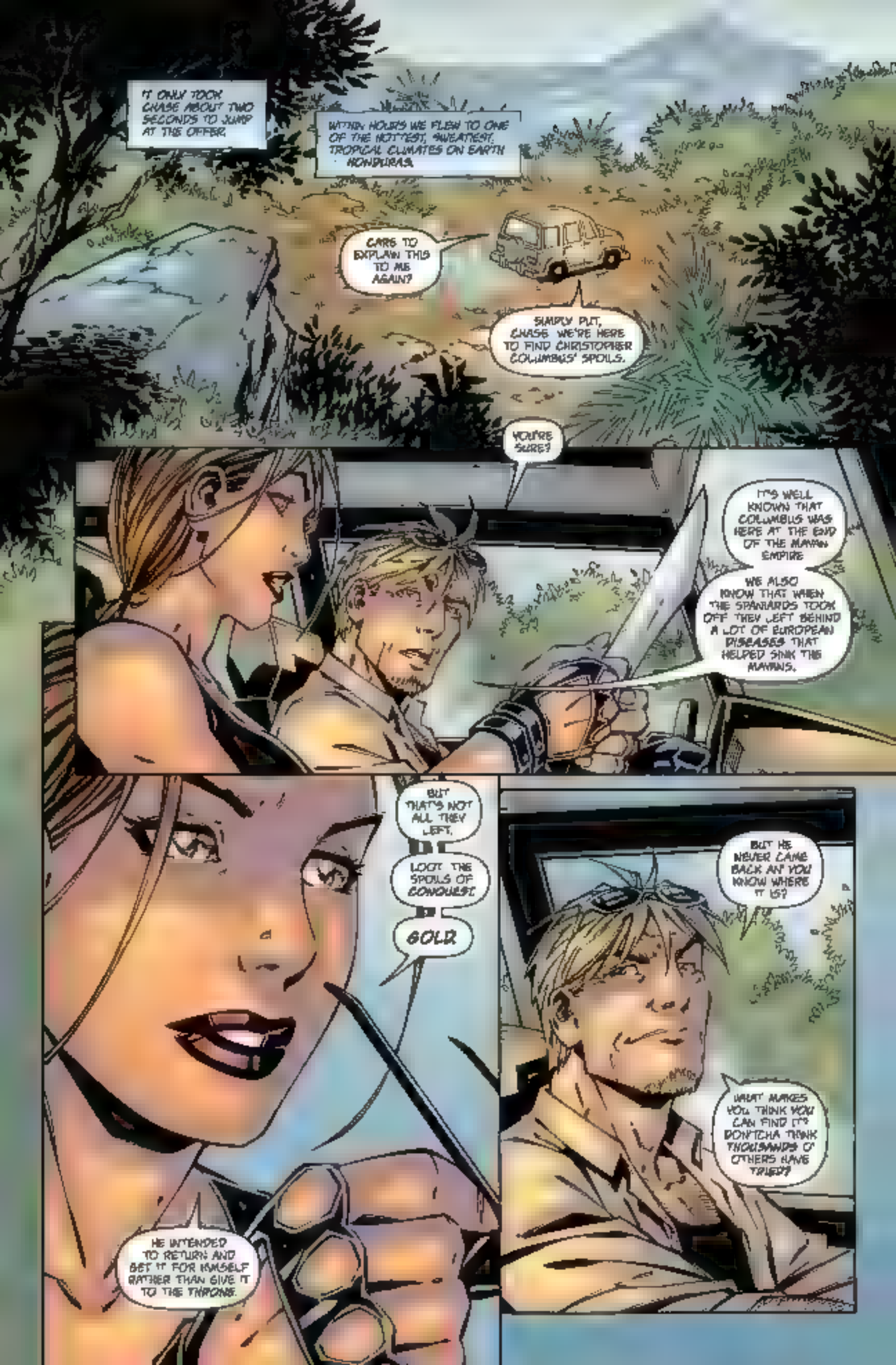
HUH?
WUZZAT?
LAWD! 'ZAT YOU?
YEAH. THOUGH IT SHOULD BE SOMEONE WHO CAN SHUT DOWN THIS TOXIC WASTE SITE!
WHAT C'N I SAY?
BUTLER DIDN'T SHOW YESTERDAY.
BUTLER?
YOU'D NEED A BULLDOZER TO CLEAN THIS DUMP.
C'N I HELP IT IF MY HUMBLE ABODE REFLECTS MY PERSONALITY?
I HOPE INFLATI-GIRL HERE DOESN'T REFLECT YOUR TASTES.
SHE'S BELOW EVEN YOUR USUAL BOTTOM FEEDING STANDARD.
I MEAN, HOW IS THIS PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE?


HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
I UMM... I ONLY READ IT FOR THE ARTICLES.
OF COURSE WHAT COULD BE MORE INTELLECTUALLY STIMULATING THAN, "BEDPOST BINDINGS?"
HEH. WHAT CN I SAY?
WHAT'S WITH YOU, CHASE?
WHY ARE YOU JUMPING UP AND DOWN LIKE THAT?
TOO MUCH BEER LAST NIGHT I GOTTA, YOU KNOW...
... PEE.
SO, GO ALREADY!
AY CARUMBA!
LISTEN TO YOU!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING IT SINCE 1997.

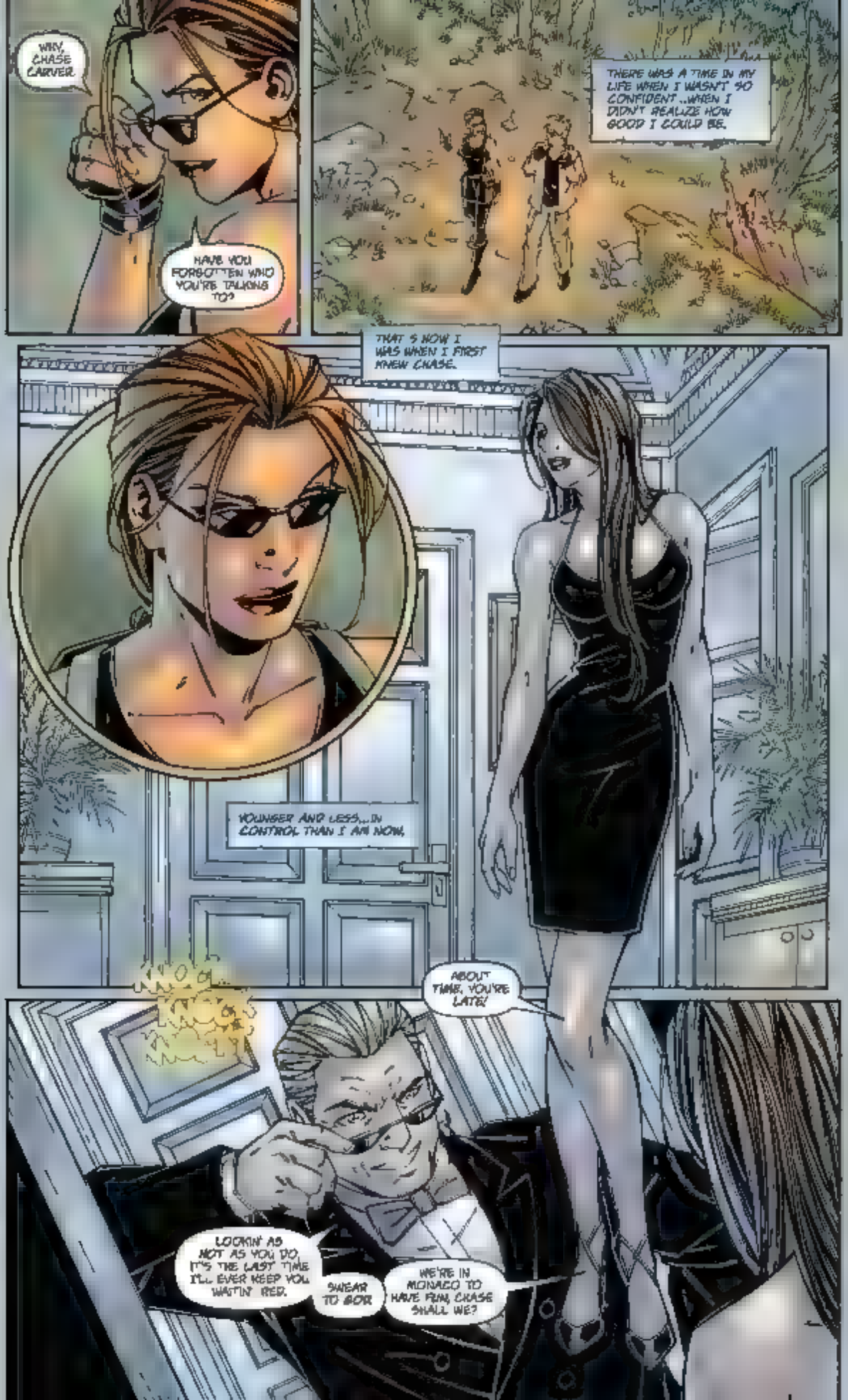

SOME SAY IF YOU TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT A PERSON'S HOME, IT WILL TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM.
WITH CHASE, IT'S UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE.
IF THIS PLACE GETS ANY WORSE, IT'LL QUALIFY AS A TOXIC WASTE DUMP.
HE'D LIKE SOMETHING NICER. BUT CHASE IS ONE OF THOSE HUNTERS WHO RARELY FINDS ANYTHING OF CONSEQUENCE --
-- THE FINANCIAL WILLING THAT'LL PUT HIM OVER THE TOP.
HIS FAMILY? I DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD A SISTER.
AND US FROM A FEW YEARS AGO.
HMM.
MAYBE...MAYBE OUR RELATIONSHIP MEANT SOMETHING TO THE BIG DOOFUS AFTER ALL.

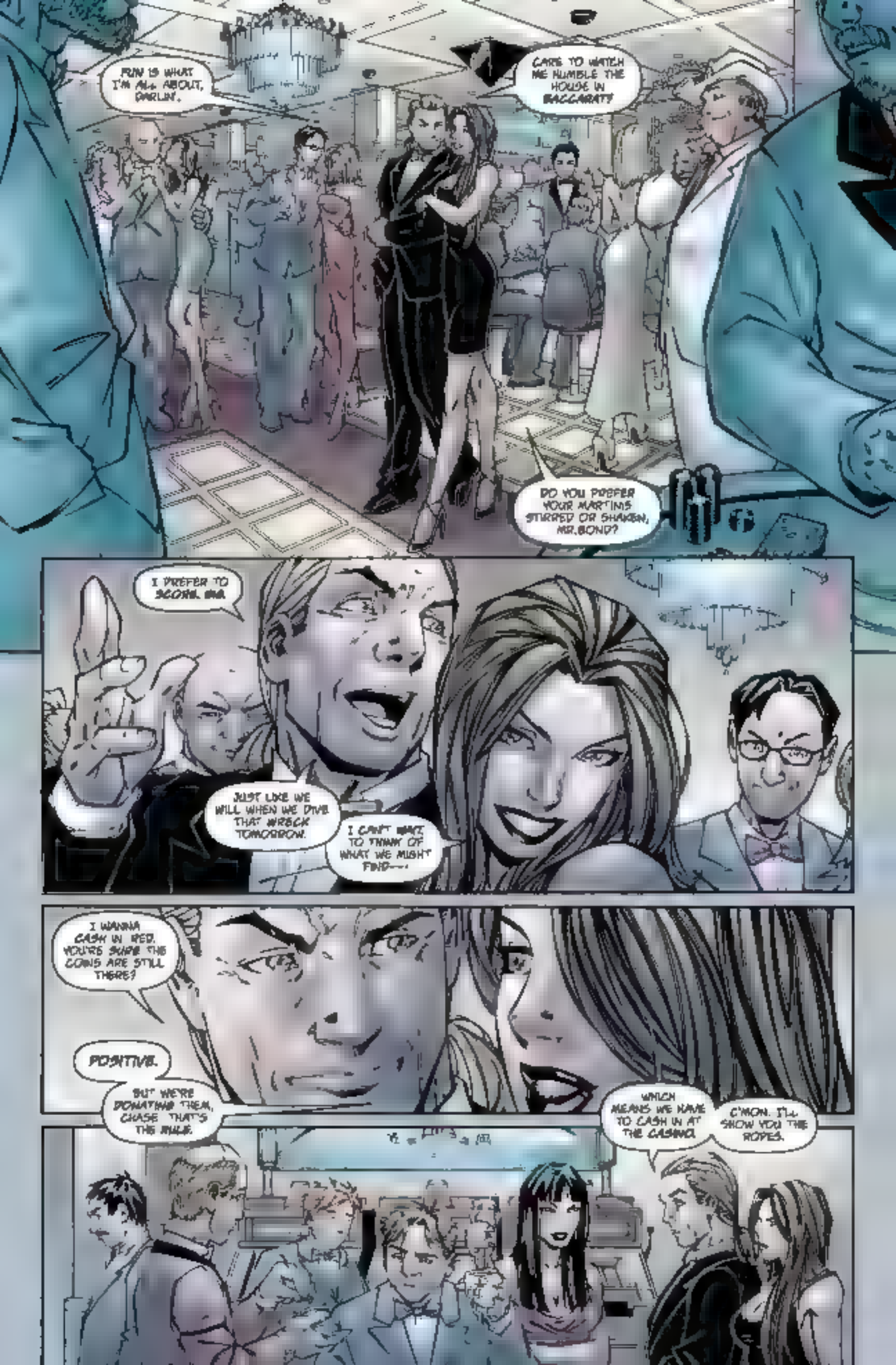

DIDN'T KNOW SNOOPIN' WAS YOUR STYLE, RED!
CHASE THERE ARE MAJOR OVERDUE BILLS ALL OVER YOUR DESK: WHAT'S THE STORY?
SLIM PICKIN'S OUT THERE RED, TIMES'RE TOUGH.
BUT...YOU'VE BEEN WORKING WITH ME:
'ZACTLY! AN' THAT'S MY PROBLEM!
YOU NEVER CASH IN GIRL! EVERYTHING YOU FIND, YOU DONATE!
MAYBE YOU GOT THE BUCKS TO LIVE LIKE THAT, BUT YOURS TRULY DOES NOT!
I'M SORRY! I GUESS, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SENSITIVE TO THE SACRIFICES YOU WERE MAKING TO HELP ME.
THANK YOU.
AND I'M GLAD TO SEE YOUR HAIR COLOR IS BACK TO NORMAL.

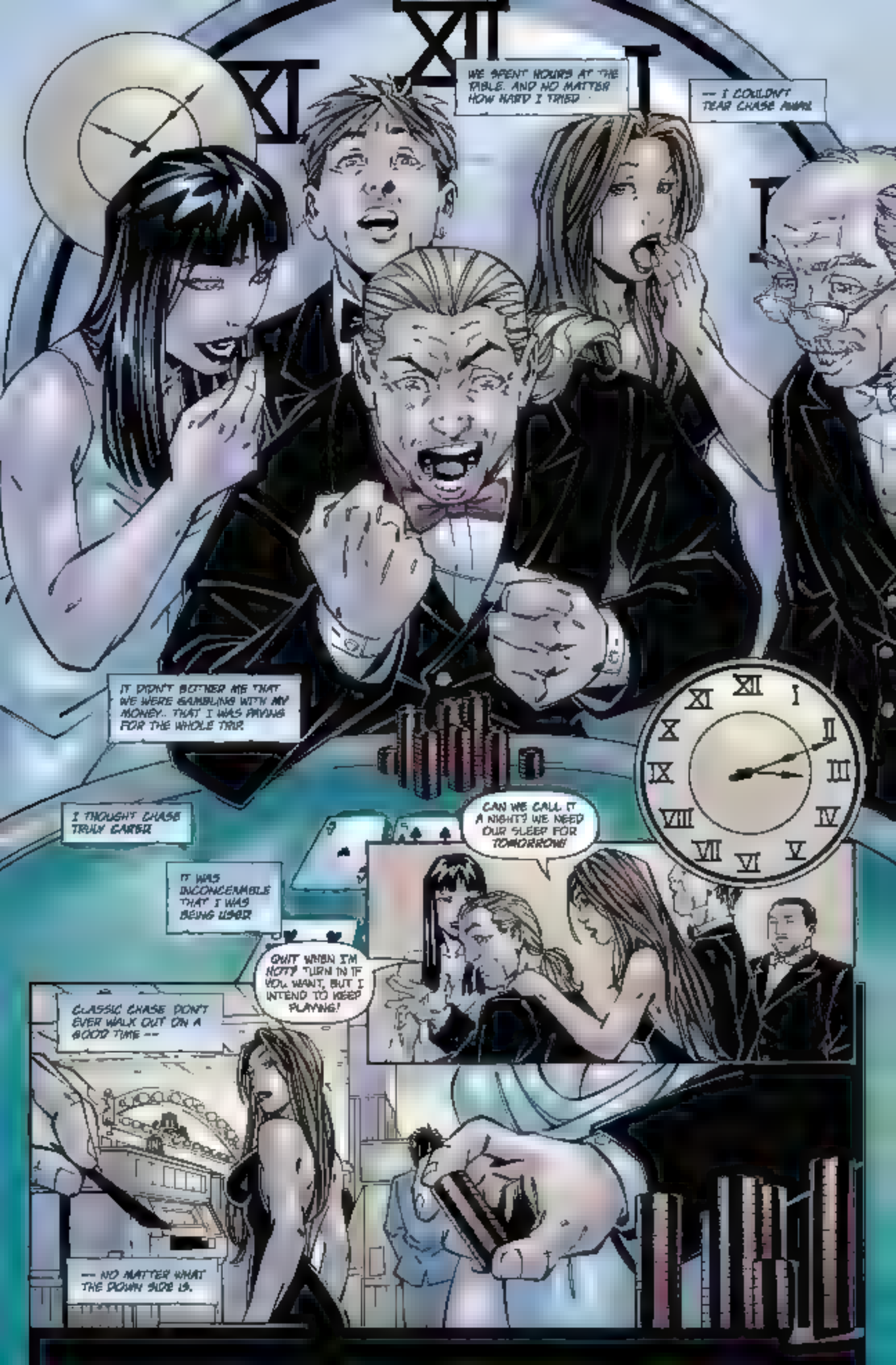

WANT ME TO SCRAPE THE DRIED PEANUT BUTTER AND CRACKER CRUMBS OUTTA MY SHEETS SO WE CAN --
CHASE!
OKAY, I KNOW IT'S GROSS IF WE GET THE PIZZA SAUCE OFF THE COUCH --
THE FOOD ISN'T THE ISSUE!
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I ADORED YOU, CHASE CARVER!
BUT THE HURT... THE PAIN YOU INFLICTED RUNS SO DEEP... THAT I'M JUST NOT READY TO --
LARA, I HAVE REGRETTED ALL THAT SINCE THE DAY IT HAPPENED!
CAN'T YOU FORGIVE ME?
PLEASE?
CHASE, IF I WASN'T AT LEAST PART WAY THERE, WE WOULDN'T BE WORKING TOGETHER.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WOULD YOU LIKE IN ON SOMETHING ELSE?

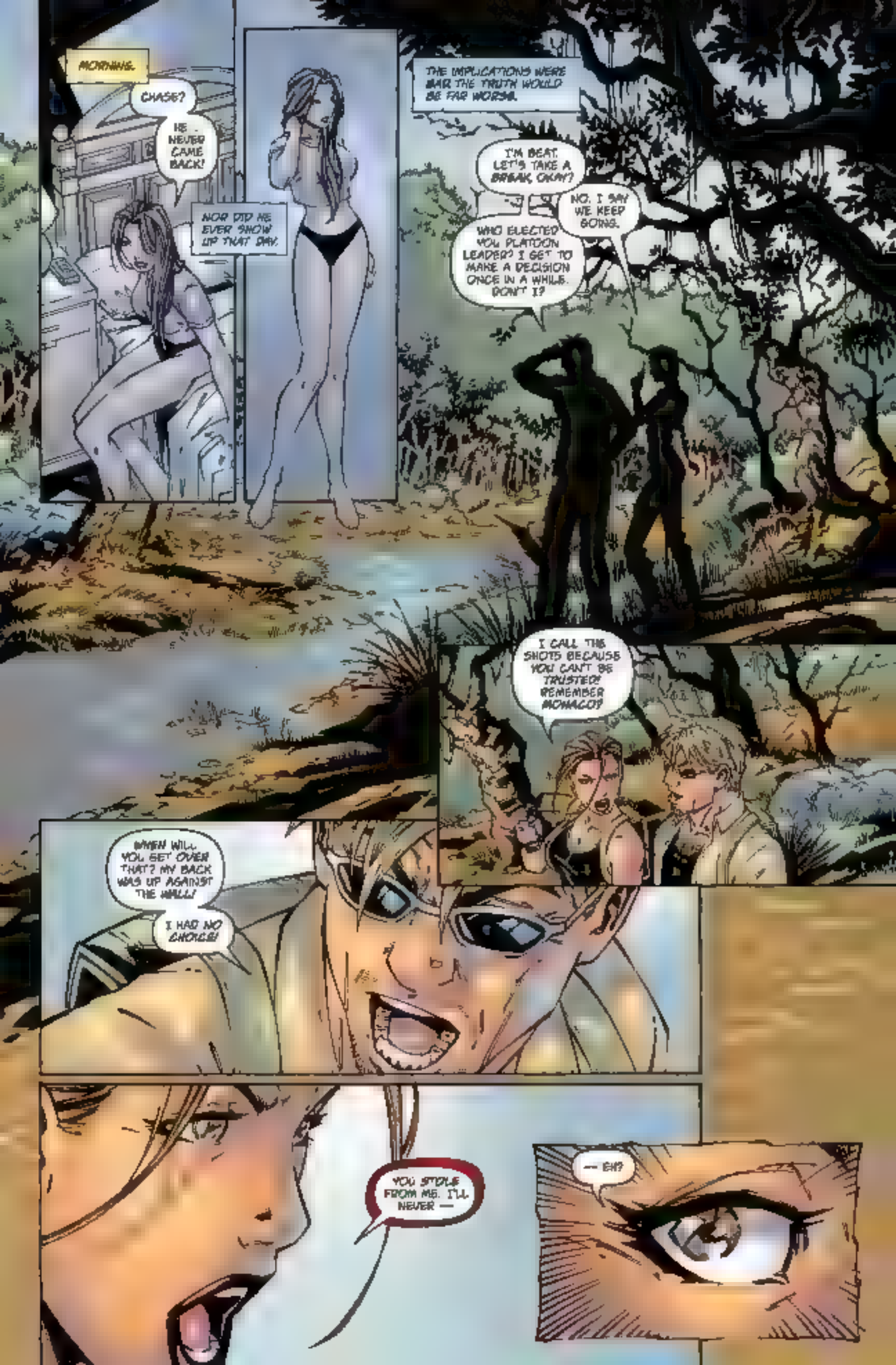

IT ONLY TOOK CHASE ABOUT TWO SECONDS TO JUMP AT THE OFFER.
WITHIN HOURS WE FLEW TO ONE OF THE HOTTEST, SWEATIEST, TROPICAL CLIMATES ON EARTH HONDURAS.
CARE TO EXPLAIN THIS TO ME AGAIN?
SIMPLY PUT, CHASE WE'RE HERE TO FIND CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS' SPOILS.
YOU'RE SURE?
IT'S WELL KNOWN THAT COLUMBUS WAS HERE AT THE END OF THE MAYAN EMPIRE
WE ALSO KNOW THAT WHEN THE SPANIARDS TOOK OFF THEY LEFT BEHIND A LOT OF EUROPEAN DISEASES THAT HELPED SINK THE MAYANS.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL THEY LEFT.
LOOT. THE SPOILS OF CONQUEST.
GOLD
HE INTENDED TO RETURN AND GET IT FOR HIMSELF RATHER THAN GIVE IT TO THE THRONE.
BUT HE NEVER CAME BACK AN' YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND IT? DON'TCHA THINK THOUSANDS OF OTHERS HAVE TRIED?

I SPENT TWO MONTHS STUDYING THE NOTES OF COLUMBUS AND HIS CREW.
I ALSO FOUND A KEY CLUE IN AN OBSCURE SPANISH TEXT WRITTEN A FEW YEARS AFTER THE LAST VOYAGE.
THE WRITER INTERVIEWED COLUMBUS, WHO SPOKE OF THE CLIMATE AND TERRAIN HERE.
ON FACE VALUE, HIS COMMENTS ARE LITTLE MORE THAN SIMPLE OBSERVATION.
CROSS REFERENCED WITH EVERY OTHER BIT OF INFORMATION, IT'S A MAP.
MAYBE SO, BUT THIS AREA HAS STILL BEEN TROMPED ON FOR YEARS! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND WHAT OTHERS CAN'T?


WHY, CHASE CARVER.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?
THERE WAS A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN I WASN'T SO CONFIDENT ..WHEN I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW GOOD I COULD BE.
THAT'S NOW I WAS WHEN I FIRST KNEW CHASE.
YOUNGER AND LESS...IN CONTROL THAN I AM NOW.
ABOUT TIME, YOU'RE LATE!
LOOKIN' AS HOT AS YOU DO, IT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER KEEP YOU WAITIN' RED.
SWEAR TO GOD.
WE'RE IN MONACO TO HAVE FUN, CHASE SHALL WE?


FUN IS WHAT I'M ALL ABOUT, DARLIN'.
CARE TO WATCH ME HUMBLE THE HOUSE IN BACCARAT?
DO YOU PREFER YOUR MARTINIS STIRRED OR SHAKEN, MR. BOND?
I PREFER TO SCORE. ON
JUST LIKE WE WILL WHEN WE DIVE THAT WRECK TOMORROW.
I CAN'T WAIT TO THINK OF WHAT WE MIGHT FIND—.
I WANNA CASH IN RED. YOU'RE SURE THE COINS ARE STILL THERE?
POSITIVE.
BUT WE'RE DONATING THEM, CHASE. THAT'S THE RULE.
WHICH MEANS WE HAVE TO CASH IN AT THE CASINO.
C'MON. I'LL SHOW YOU THE ROPES.


WE SPENT HOURS AT THE TABLE. AND NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED
-- I COULDN'T TEAR CHASE AWAY.
IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME THAT WE WERE GAMBLING WITH MY MONEY.. THAT I WAS PAYING FOR THE WHOLE TRIP.
I THOUGHT CHASE TRULY CARED.
IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT I WAS BEING USED.
CAN WE CALL IT A NIGHT? WE NEED OUR SLEEP FOR TOMORROW!
QUIT WHEN I'M NOT? TURN IN IF YOU WANT, BUT I INTEND TO KEEP PLAYING!
CLASSIC CHASE. DON'T EVER WALK OUT ON A GOOD TIME --
-- NO MATTER WHAT THE DOWN SIDE IS.


MORNING.
CHASE?
HE NEVER CAME BACK!
NOR DID HE EVER SHOW UP THAT DAY.
THE IMPLICATIONS WERE CLEAR. THE TRUTH WOULD BE FAR WORSE.
I'M BEAT. LET'S TAKE A BREAK, OKAY?
NO. I SAY WE KEEP GOING.
WHO ELECTED YOU PLATOON LEADER? I GET TO MAKE A DECISION ONCE IN A WHILE, DON'T I?
I CALL THE SHOTS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BE TRUSTED! REMEMBER MONACO?
WHEN WILL YOU GET OVER THAT? MY BACK WAS UP AGAINST THE WALL!
I HAD NO CHOICE!
YOU STOLE FROM ME. I'LL NEVER —
— EH?

DIIEEEE!
NEXT ISSUE:
A CONCLUSION YOU
WILL NOT BELIEVE!

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THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN EASY.
NO PROBLEMS. NO WEIRD HAPPENINGS.
A SIMPLE JAUNT THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA TO RECOVER SOME GOLD LEFT BEHIND BY COLUMBUS A HALF CENTURY AGO.
A ROUTINE JOB, IF EVER THERE WAS ONE.
UNFORTUNATELY, I'VE COME TO REALIZE--
-ROUTINE AND I ARE DESTINED NEVER TO WALK HAND IN HAND.

NORMALLY, I WORK ALONE.

SPENDING TIME IN THE HARDEST TO REACH, MOST MISERABLE PLACES ON EARTH ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT MOST PEOPLE CONSIDER FUN.

BUT LACK OF A PARTNER ALMOST COST ME MY LIFE IN JAPAN.

ENTER CHASE CARVER. FORMER LOVER AND CURRENT HARD LUCK TREASURE HUNTER.

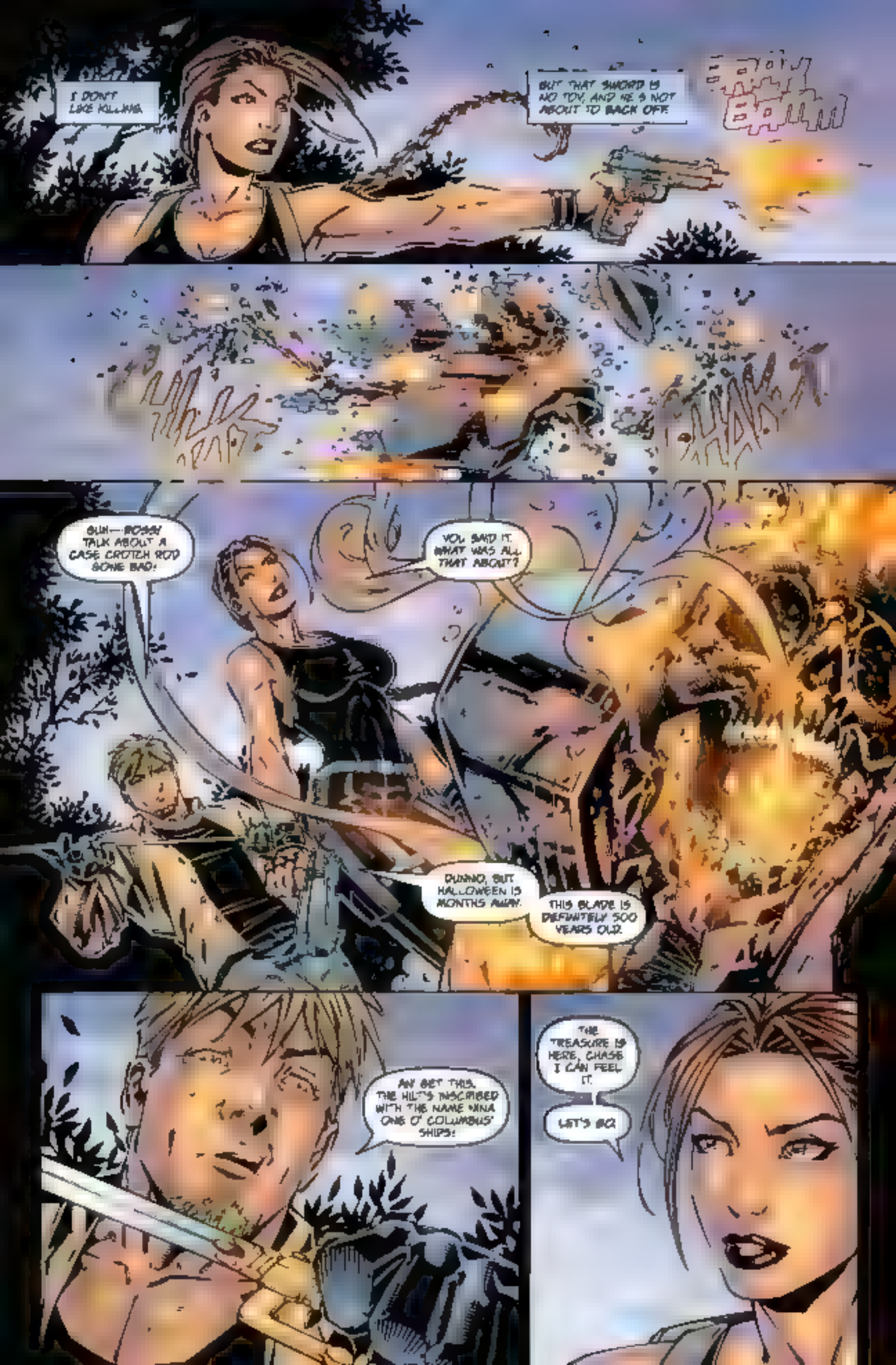
HE HOPED TO CLEAR A FEW BUCKS ON THIS JOB.

I JUST HAVE TO HOPE —

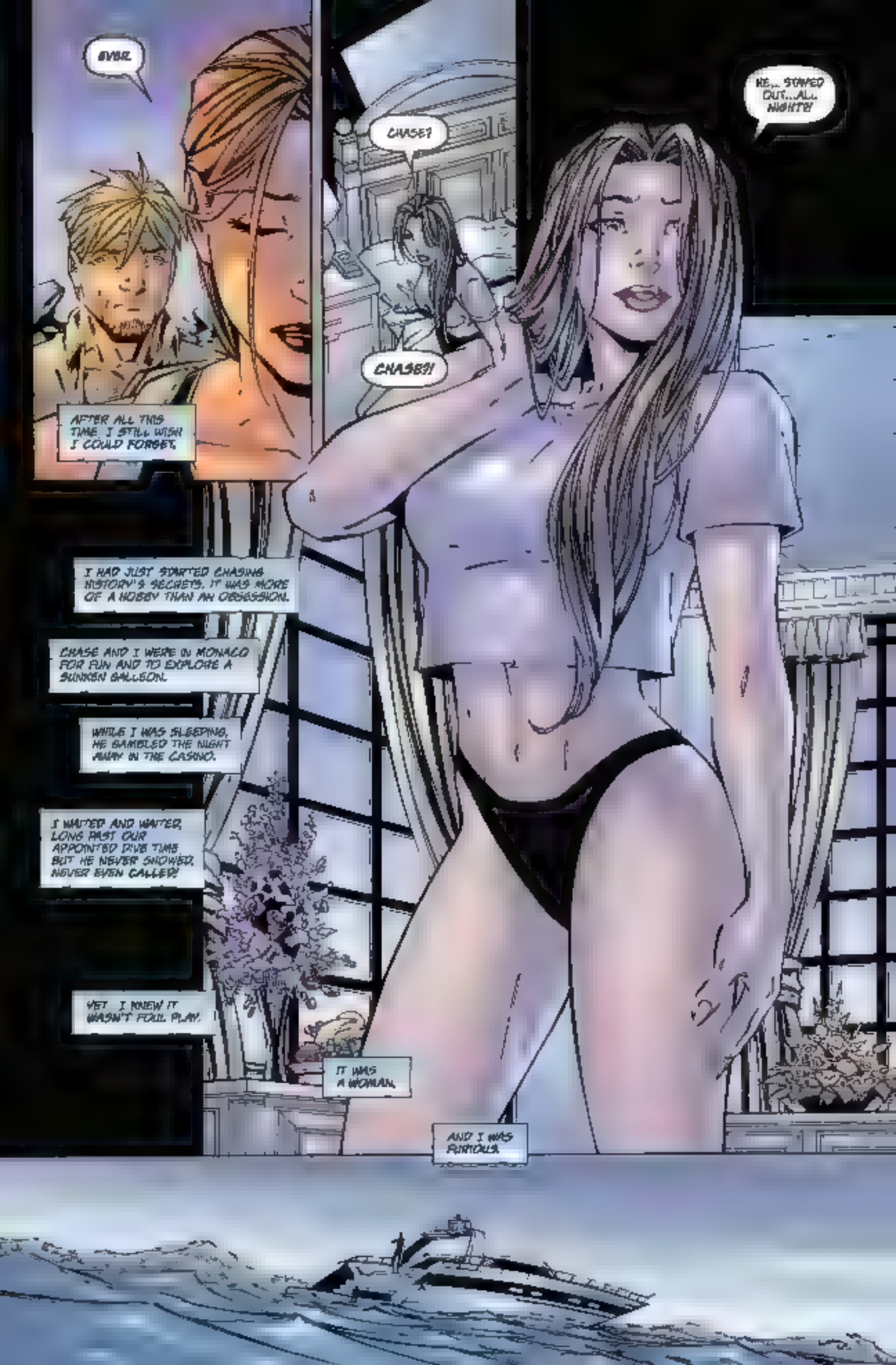
THIS TRIP ISN'T HIS LAST.

THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC!
NO? WHEN SUPER CHASE IS HERE!
CAREFUL, HERO BOY! HE'S STRONG AS A GORILLA!
HOLY MOTHER O' GOD! YOU AIN'T KIDDIN'!
THIS MOOK'S NOT HIMSELF A FACE NOT EVEN A BLIND MOTHER COULD LOVE!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT HIM BEIN' STRONG!
I'LIKE FIGHT N' THE HULK!
—SMASH—
OCCASIONALLY, CHASE MANAGES TO MAKE HIMSELF HELPFUL.

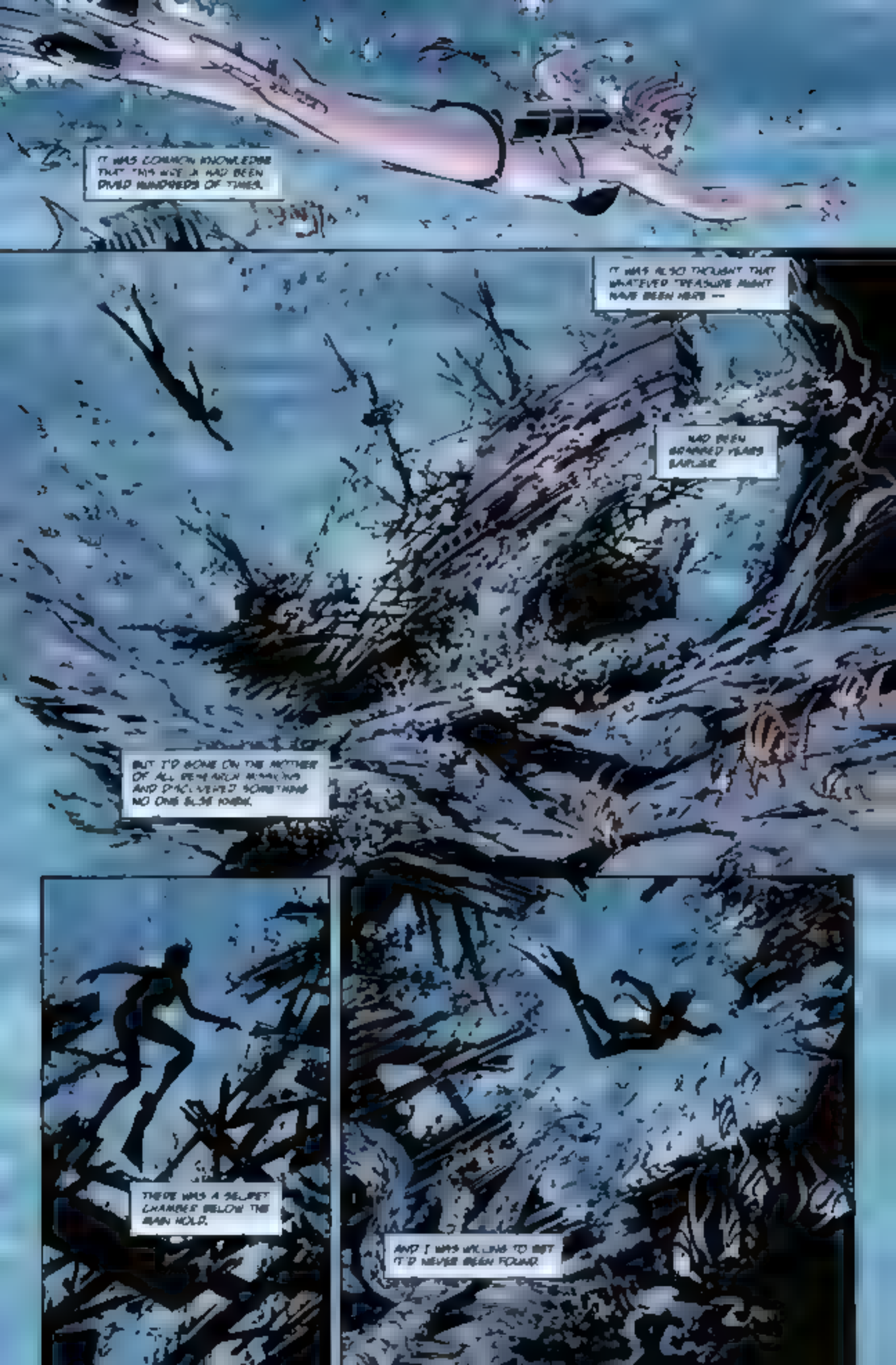
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT HOWEVER --
-- HIS RASH BEHAVIOR GETS HIM IN TROUBLE.
BOOM
BRAM BRAM
IN THIS BUSINESS, THAT'LL GET YOU KILLED
NICE WORK, RED! THANKS FOR THE --
-- THE --
(FURIATED)
(YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THAT WHICH IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!)

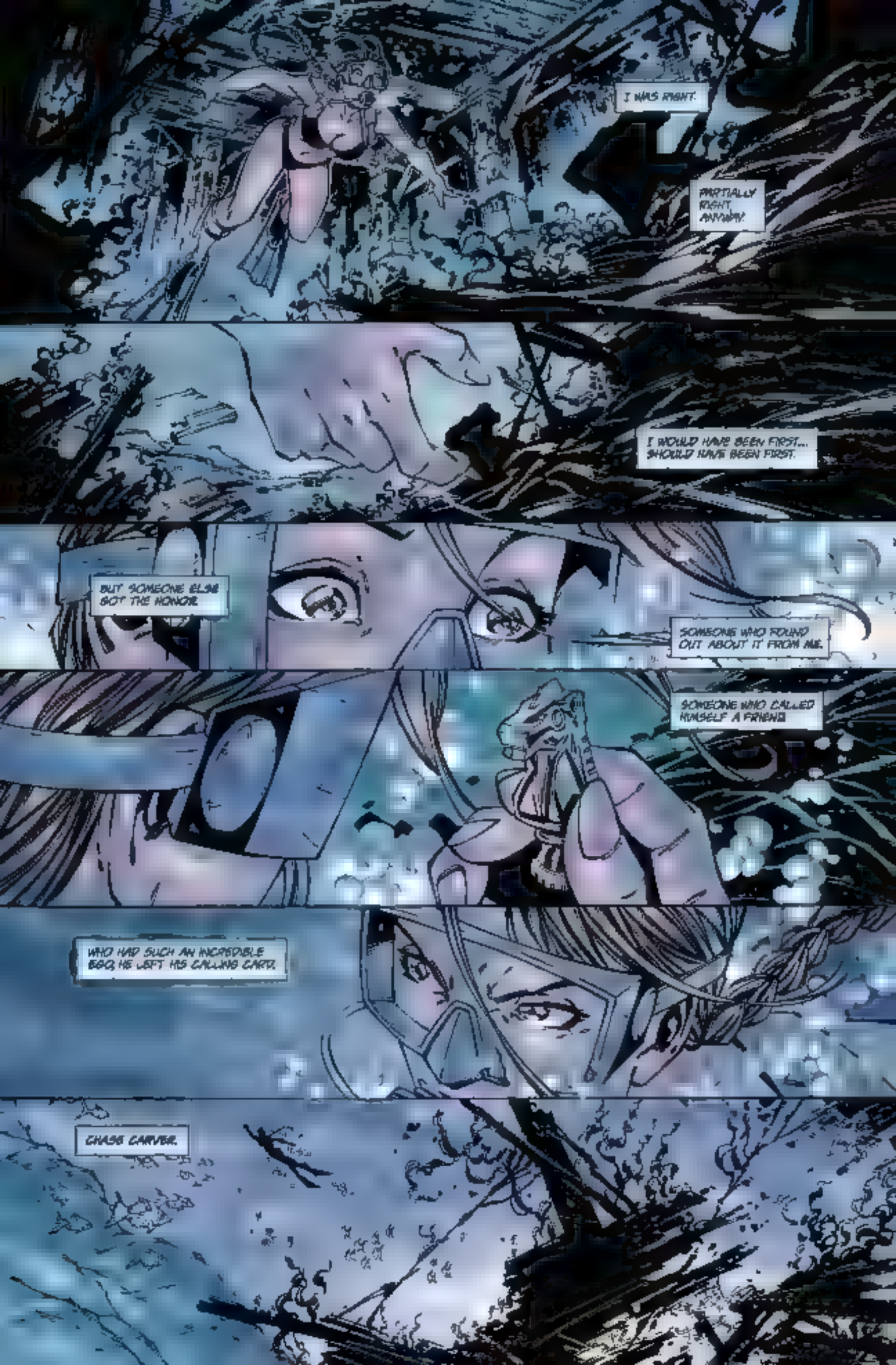

I DON'T LIKE KILLING.
BUT THAT SWORD IS NO TOY, AND HE'S NOT ABOUT TO BACK OFF.
GUH—ROSS! TALK ABOUT A CASE CROTCH ROD GONE BAD!
YOU SAID IT. WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?
DUNNO, BUT HALLOWEEN IS MONTHS AWAY.
THIS BLADE IS DEFINITELY 500 YEARS OLD.
AN' GET THIS. THE HILT'S INSCRIBED WITH THE NAME NINA ONE O' COLUMBUS' SHIPS!
THE TREASURE IS HERE, CHASE I CAN FEEL IT.
LET'S GO.

LARA, THE WAY THAT GUY'S FLESH WAS ROTTIN'...
AT FIRST, I FIGURED HE WAS JUST SOME LOCAL DRESSED UP TO SPOOK US, BUT WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
IT'S AS THOUGH HE STEPPED STRAIGHT OUT OF 1491 TO THE PRESENT
BUT THAT AIN'T POSSIBLE! HE MUSTA HAD SOME KINDA FLESH EATIN' DISEASE!
WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE EXPERIENCED YOU SHOULD KNOW THERE'S NO SUCH THING
--- AS IMPOSSIBLE!
JUST THE UNATTAINABLE
OR SO YOU TELL ME.
BY THE WAY, IS IT OKAY IF I KEEP FERNANDO'S BLADE?
MIGHT BE WORTH SOME COIN!
YOU GOT MY SHARE ONCE, MR.CARVER. ARE YOU SURE I SHOULD LET YOU HAVE MORE?
AWW, SUMMA A BREAK! WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LET ME OFF THE HOOK FOR MONACO?
SOME THINGS AREN'T EASILY FORGOTTEN, CHASE.

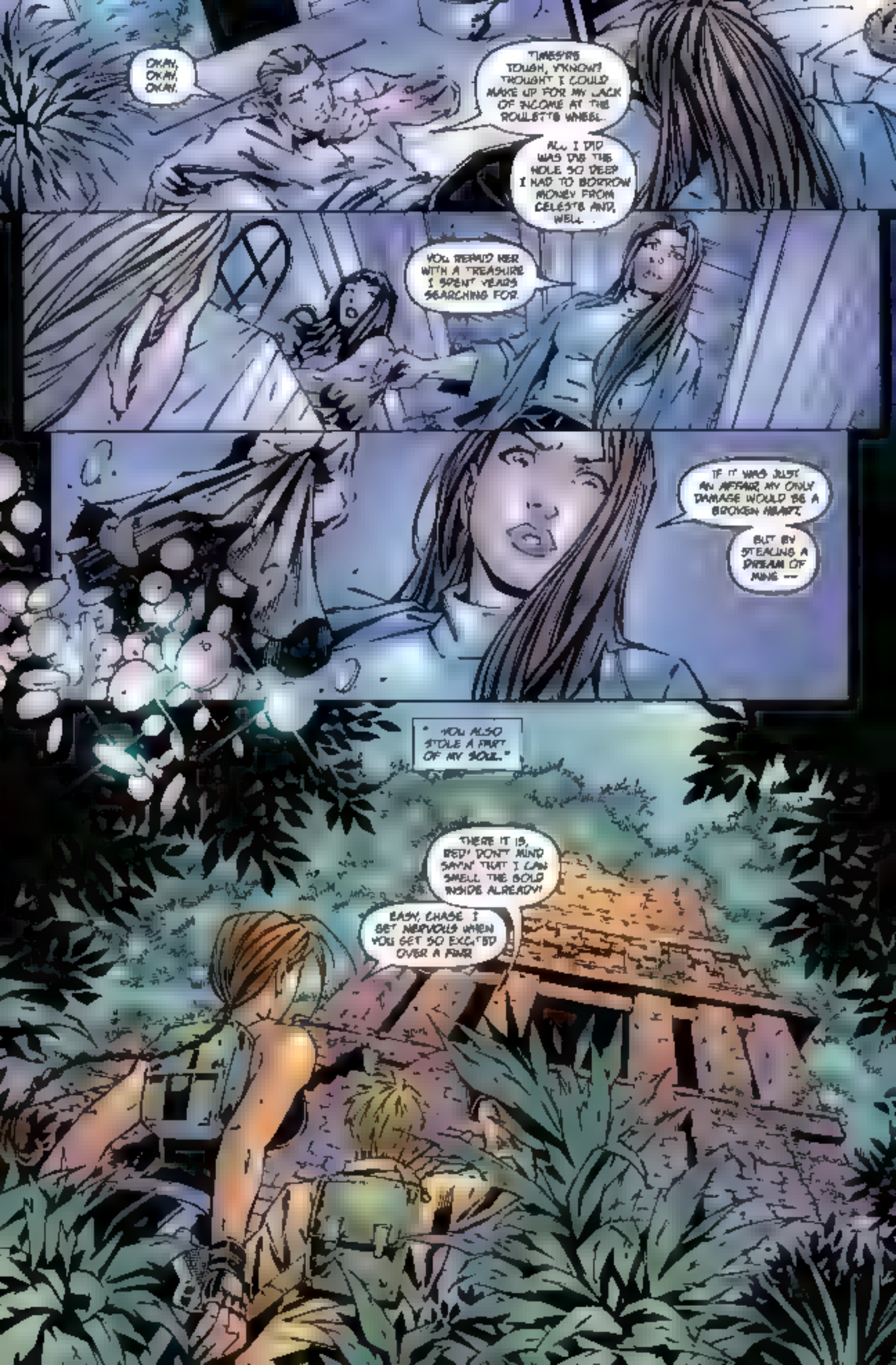

EVER.
CHASE?
HE... STAYED OUT...ALL NIGHT?!
CHASE?!
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I STILL WISH I COULD FORGET.
I HAD JUST STARTED CHASING HISTORY'S SECRETS. IT WAS MORE OF A HOBBY THAN AN OBSESSION.
CHASE AND I WERE IN MONACO FOR FUN AND TO EXPLORE A SUNKEN GALLEON.
WHILE I WAS SLEEPING, HE GAMBLED THE NIGHT AWAY IN THE CASINO.
I WAITED AND WAITED, LONG PAST OUR APPOINTED DIVE TIME BUT HE NEVER SHOWED. NEVER EVEN CALLED!
YET I KNEW IT WASN'T FOUL PLAY.
IT WAS A WOMAN.
AND I WAS FURIOUS.

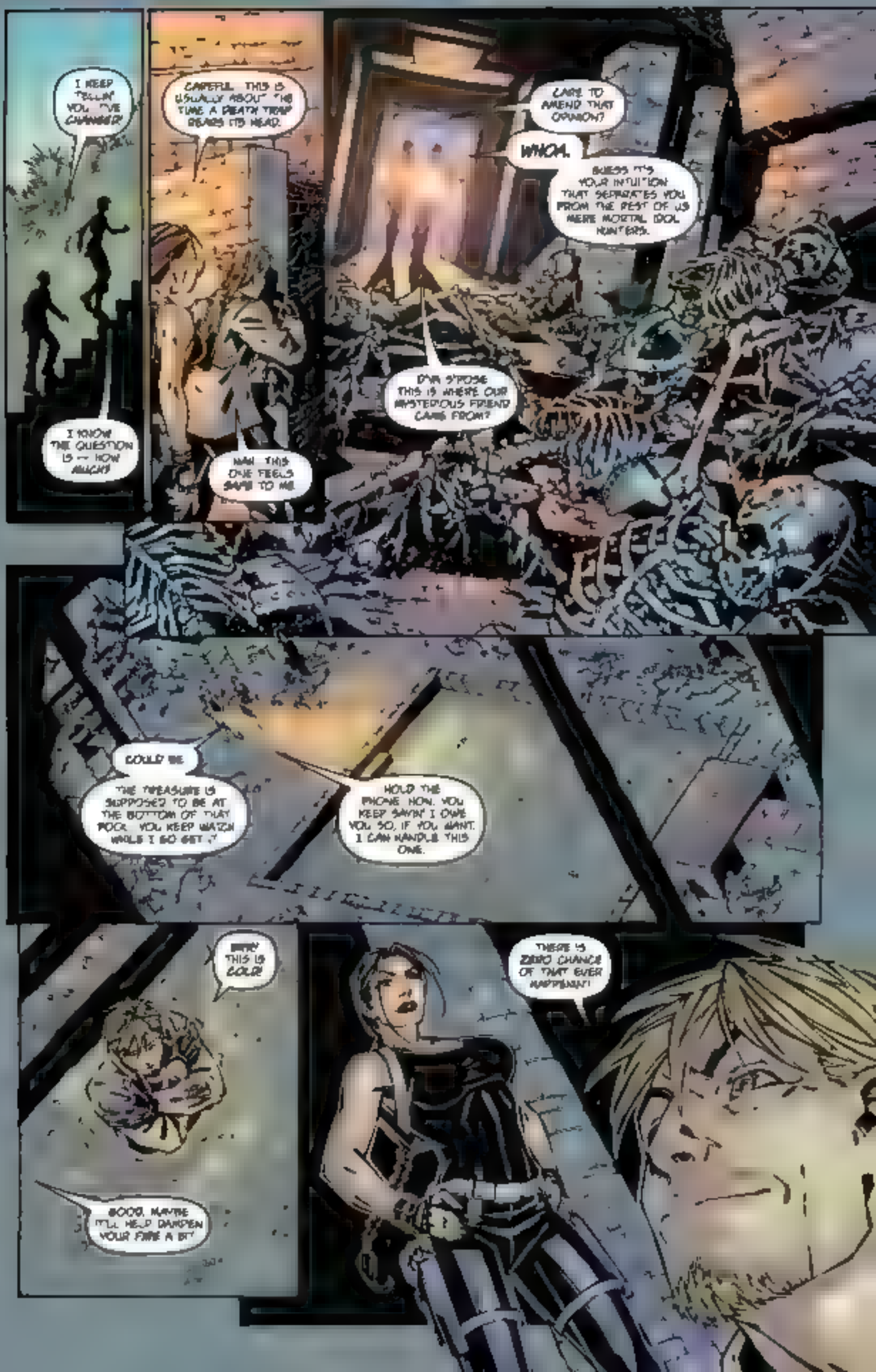
SLUDGE!
SLIME!
BUTTER RAT!
BASTARD!
FINDING THE TREASURE ALONE WAS MY WAY OF COPING.
SKUNK!
JERK!
CREEP!
SCUM!
POND SCUM!
UNDER THE RIM OF THE TOILET SCUM!
FRANKLY, I THOUGHT I WAS DOING QUITE WELL.

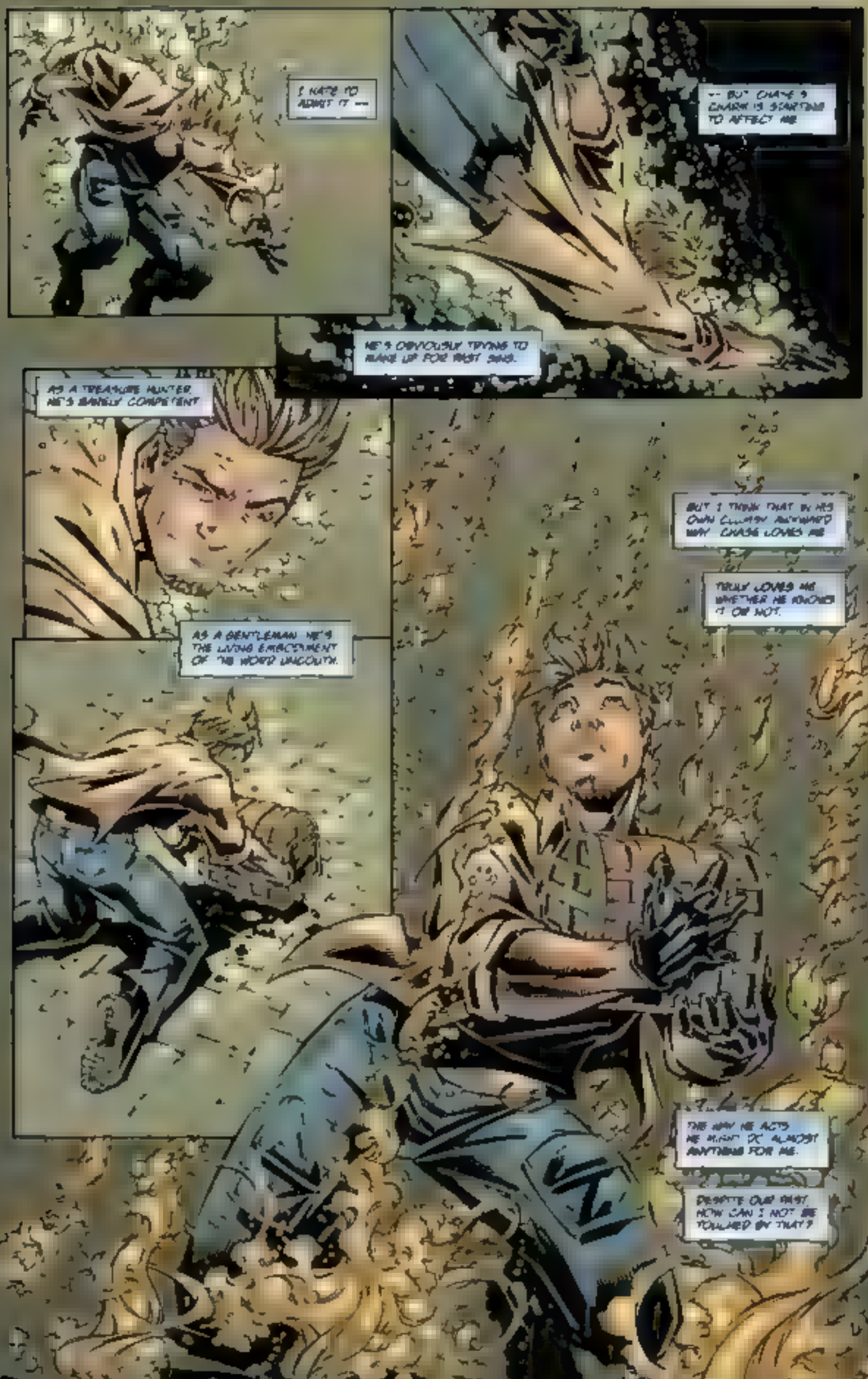

IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS WRECK HAD BEEN DIVED HUNDREDS OF TIMES.
IT WAS ALSO THOUGHT THAT WHATEVER TREASURE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HERE —
HAD BEEN SCANNED YEARS EARLIER.
BUT I'D GONE ON THE MOTHER OF ALL REMOTE MISSIONS AND DISCOVERED SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE KNEW.
THERE WAS A SECRET CHAMBER BELOW THE MAIN HOLD.
AND I WAS WILLING TO BET IT'D NEVER BEEN FOUND.


I WAS RIGHT.
PARTIALLY RIGHT, ANYWAY.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN FIRST... SHOULD HAVE BEEN FIRST.
BUT SOMEONE ELSE GOT THE HONOR.
SOMEONE WHO FOUND OUT ABOUT IT FROM ME.
SOMEONE WHO CALLED HIMSELF A FRIEND.
WHO HAD SUCH AN INCREDIBLE EGO, HE LEFT HIS CALLING CARD.
CHASE CARVER.

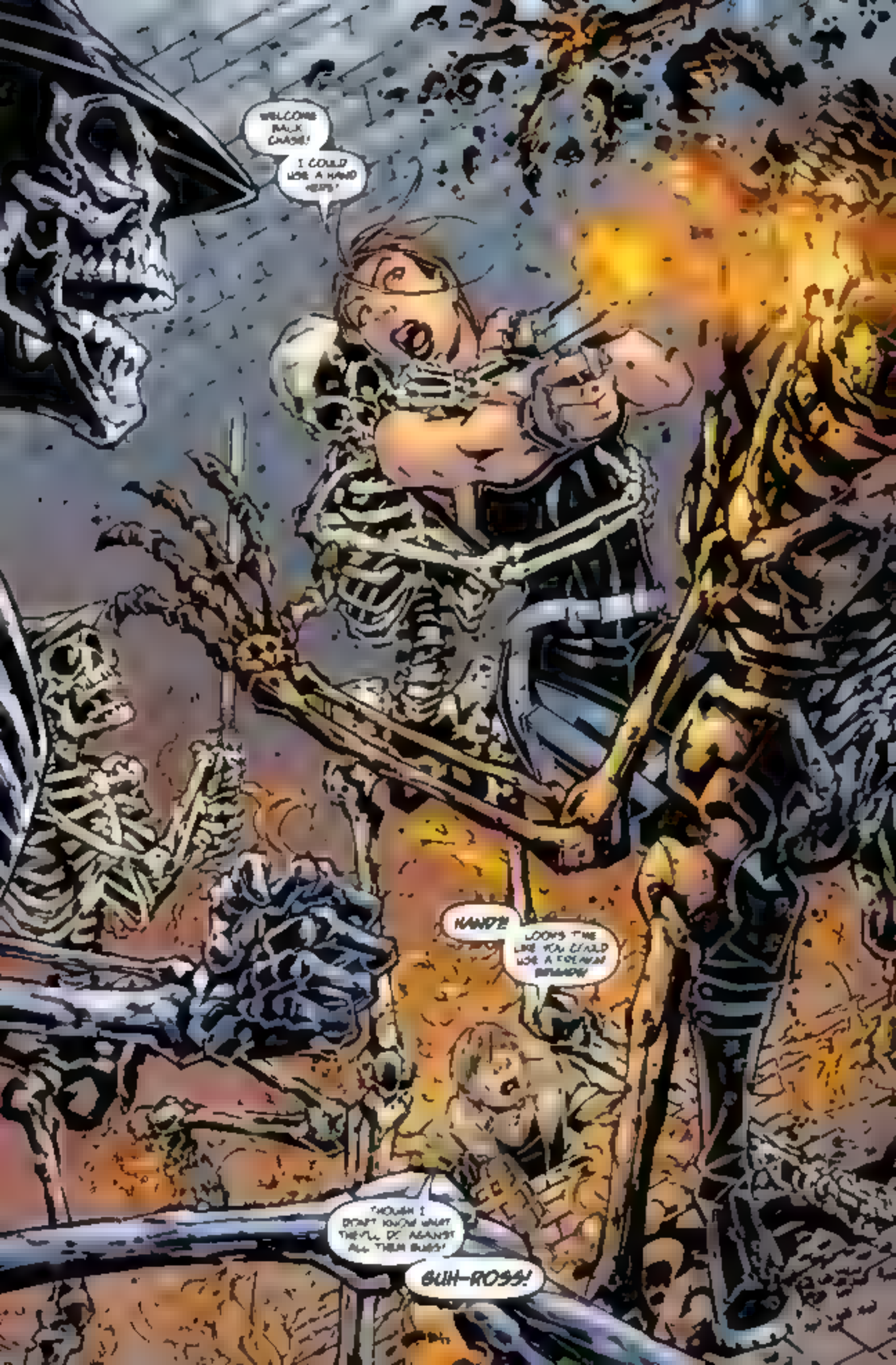
CHASE!
HMM.
FRIEND OF YOURS?
LARRIE HOW— ?!
YOU USED ME, MISTER
YOU USED ME TO GET THE TREASURE AND I WANT IT BACK!
YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG, RED
SURE I DO.


OKAH, OKAH, OKAH.
TIMES'RS TOUGH, YKNOW? THOUGHT I COULD MAKE UP FOR MY LACK OF INCOME AT THE ROULETTE WHEEL.
ALL I DID WAS DIG THIS HOLE SO DEEP I HAD TO BORROW MONEY FROM CELESTE AND, WELL...
YOU REWARD HER WITH A TREASURE I SPENT YEARS SEARCHING FOR.
IF IT WAS JUST AN AFFAIR, MY ONLY DAMAGE WOULD BE A BROKEN HEART.
BUT BY STEALING A DREAM OF MINE —
"...YOU ALSO STOLE A PART OF MY SOUL."
THERE IT IS, RED! DON'T MIND SAYIN' THAT I CAN SMELL THE GOLD INSIDE ALREADY!
EASY, CHASE. I GET NERVOUS WHEN YOU GET SO EXCITED OVER A FIND.


I KEEP TELLIN' YOU I'VE CHANGED!
I KNOW THE QUESTION IS -- HOW MUCH?
CAREFUL. THIS IS USUALLY ABOUT THE TIME A DEATH TRAP REARS ITS HEAD.
HMM. THIS ONE FEELS SAFE TO ME.
CARE TO AMEND THAT OPINION?
WHOA.
GUESS IT'S YOUR INTUITION THAT SEPARATES YOU FROM THE REST OF US MERE MORTAL IDOL HUNTERS.
D'YA S'POSE THIS IS WHERE OUR MYSTERIOUS FRIEND CAME FROM?
COULD BE.
THE TREASURE IS SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT POOL. YOU KEEP WATCH WHILE I GO GET IT.
HOLD THE PHONE HON. YOU KEEP SAYIN' I OWE YOU SO, IF YOU WANT. I CAN HANDLE THIS ONE.
WHY THIS IS COLD!
GOOD. MAYBE IT'LL HELP DAMPEN YOUR FIRE A BIT.
THERE IS ZERO CHANCE OF THAT EVER HAPPENING!

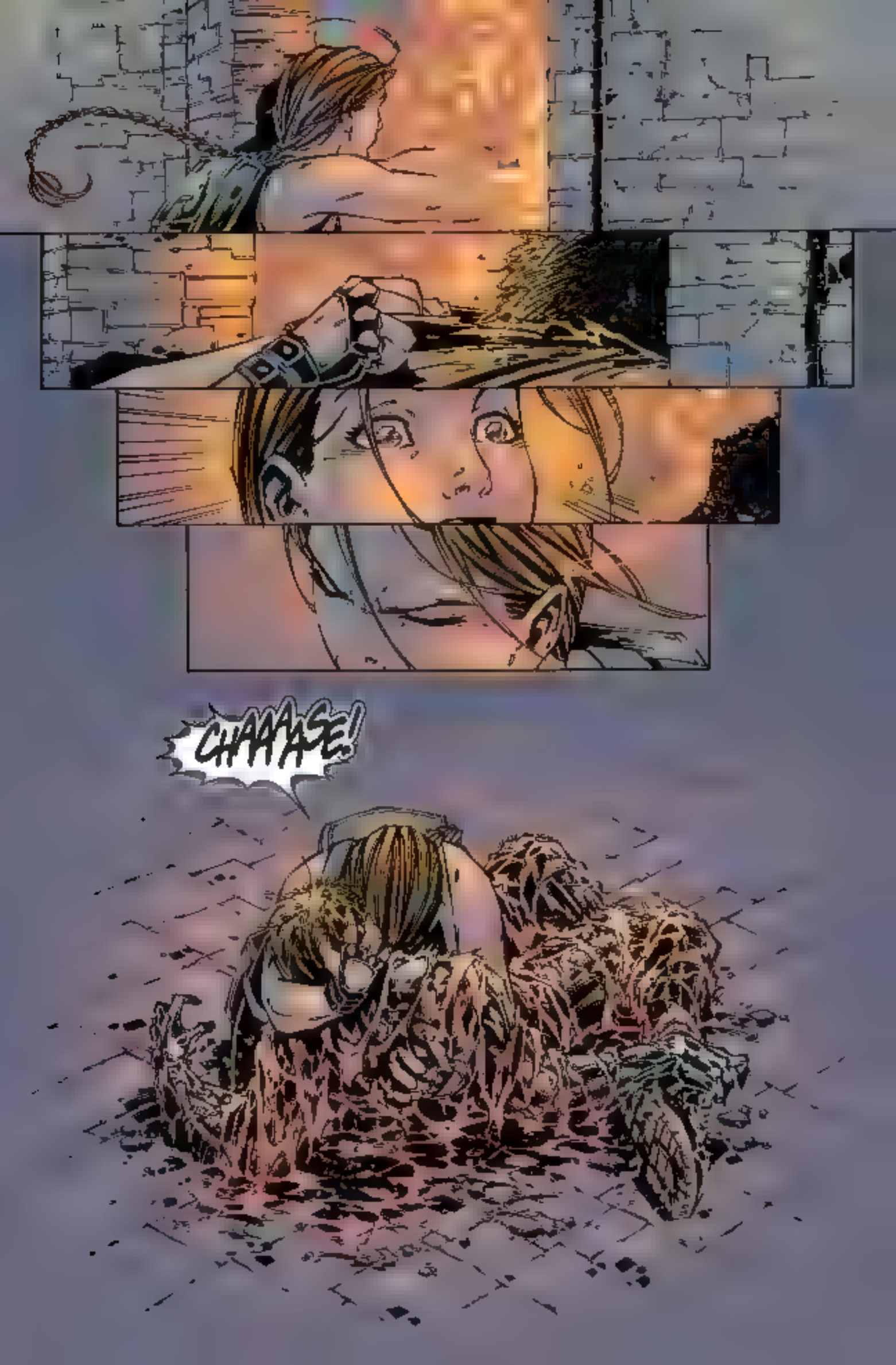

I HATE TO ADMIT IT —
— BUT CHASE'S CHARM IS STARTING TO AFFECT ME.
HE'S OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR PAST SINS.
AS A TREASURE HUNTER, HE'S BARELY COMPETENT.
AS A GENTLEMAN, HE'S THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE WORD UNCOUTH.
BUT I THINK THAT IN HIS OWN CLUMSY AWKWARD WAY, CHASE LOVES ME.
TRULY LOVES ME, WHETHER HE KNOWS IT OR NOT.
THE WAY HE ACTS, HE MIGHT DO ALMOST ANYTHING FOR ME.
DESPITE OUR PAST, HOW CAN I NOT BE TOUCHED BY THAT?

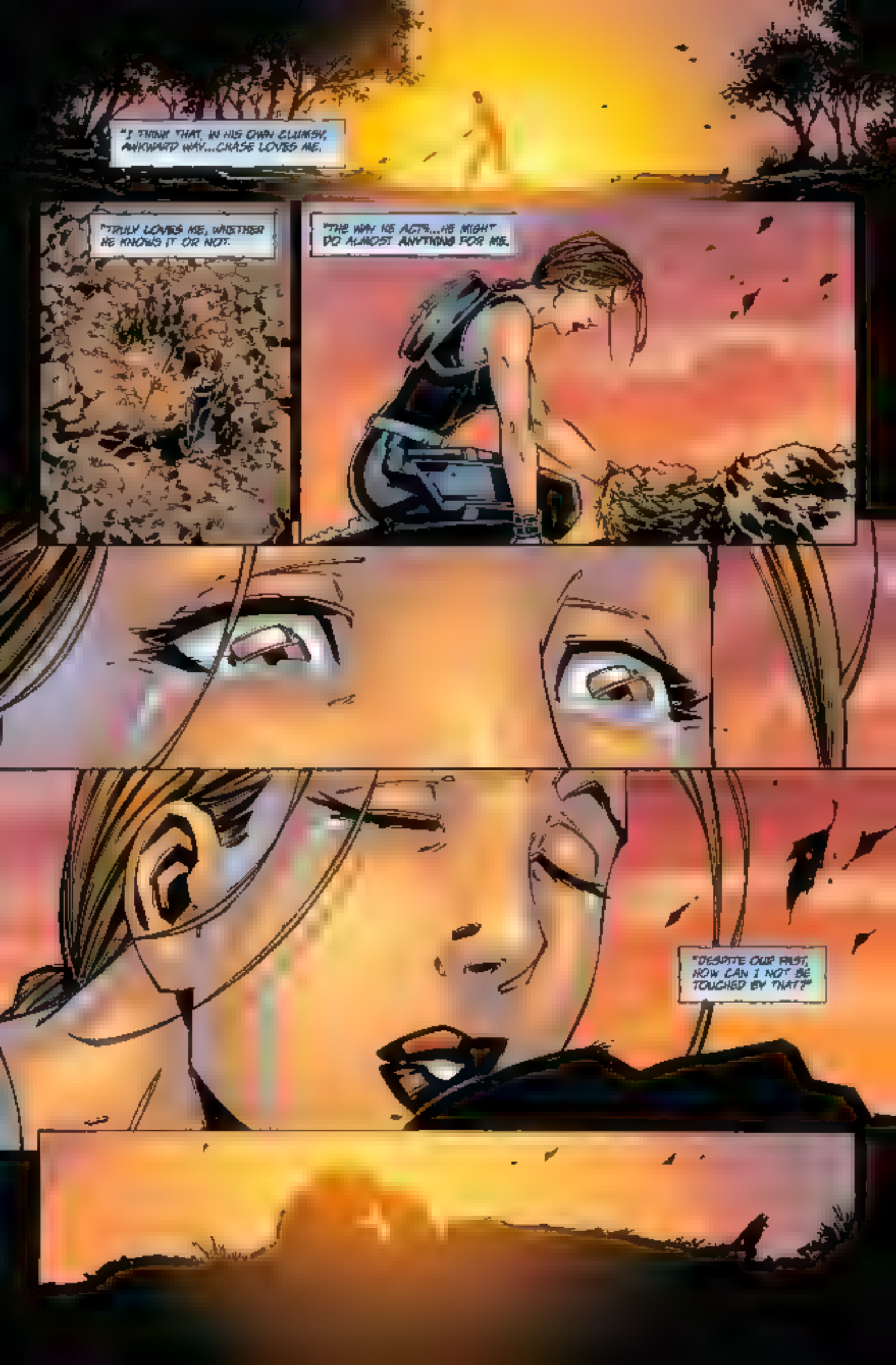
NYAHHH!
THOUGHT ALL THEM SPEARS WUZ BONNA BUT ME LIKE A —
— A —
DAMN!


WELCOME BACK, CHASE!
I COULD USE A HAND HERE!
KANDI!
LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD USE A FOLDING BRANCH!
THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO AGAINST ALL THEM BUGS!
GUH-ROSS!

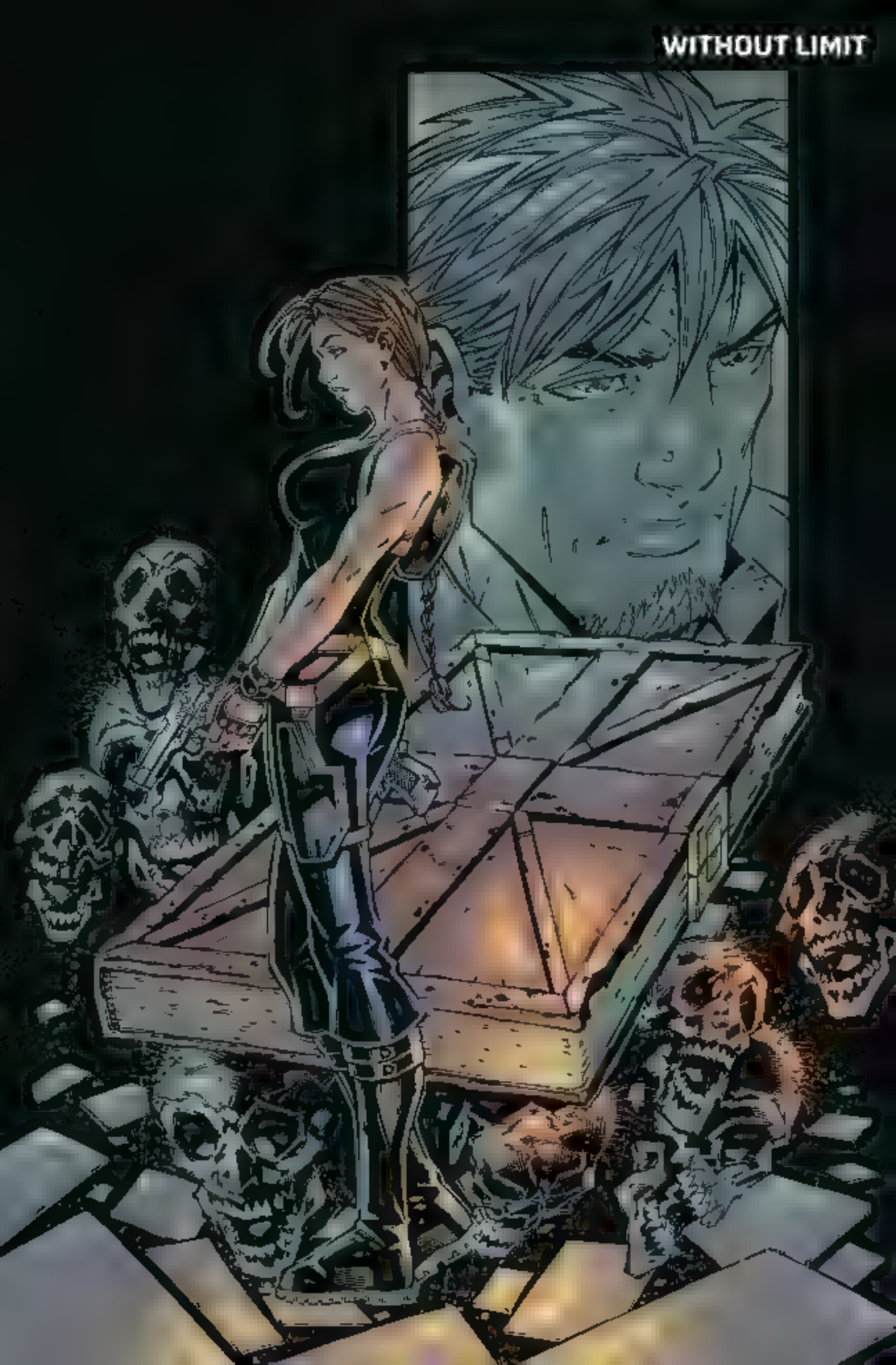
THE JOLLY ROGER AIN'T OUR ONLY PROBLEM, LARA.
THIS GAS THE SPEARS RELEASED MIGHT BE KILLIN' THE ROACHES AN' ALL BUT THERE AIN'T NO WAY IT'LL DO US ANY GOOD.
SPECIALLY WHEN THE DOOR IS CLOSIN'
GET BEHIND ME. BABE... ME TA HAUL BUTT OUT'TA HERE!
I'M CAUGHT, CHASE. GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN!
LARA?
I'M REALLY EXPECT ME TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND?

I DON'T THINK SO!
I MAY NOT HAVE A WEAPON -
-- BUT I USED TA CHUCK A PRETTY MEAN FOOTBALL!
WE CAN'T HOLD OUR BREATH FOREVER!
LET'S GO!
HOLDIN' MY BREATH WON'T DO ME ANY GOOD, RED!
I ALREADY GOT ME A COUPLE O LUNGS FULL WHEN I SURFACED!
NOT ONLY CAN I ALREADY FEEL IT TEARIN' ME UP INSIDE
BUT SOMEBODY'S GOTTA KEEP THESE GUYS OFF YER SHAPELY BOTTOM.
CH-CHASE?


CHAAASE!


"I THINK THAT, IN HIS OWN CLUMSY, AWKWARD WAY...CHASE LOVES ME.
"TRULY LOVES ME, WHETHER HE KNOWS IT OR NOT.
"THE WAY HE ACTS...HE MIGHT DO ALMOST ANYTHING FOR ME.
"DESPITE OUR PAST, HOW CAN I NOT BE TOUCHED BY THAT?"

CHASE CARVER



SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
[illegible]

INKS
JOHN LIVESAY

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

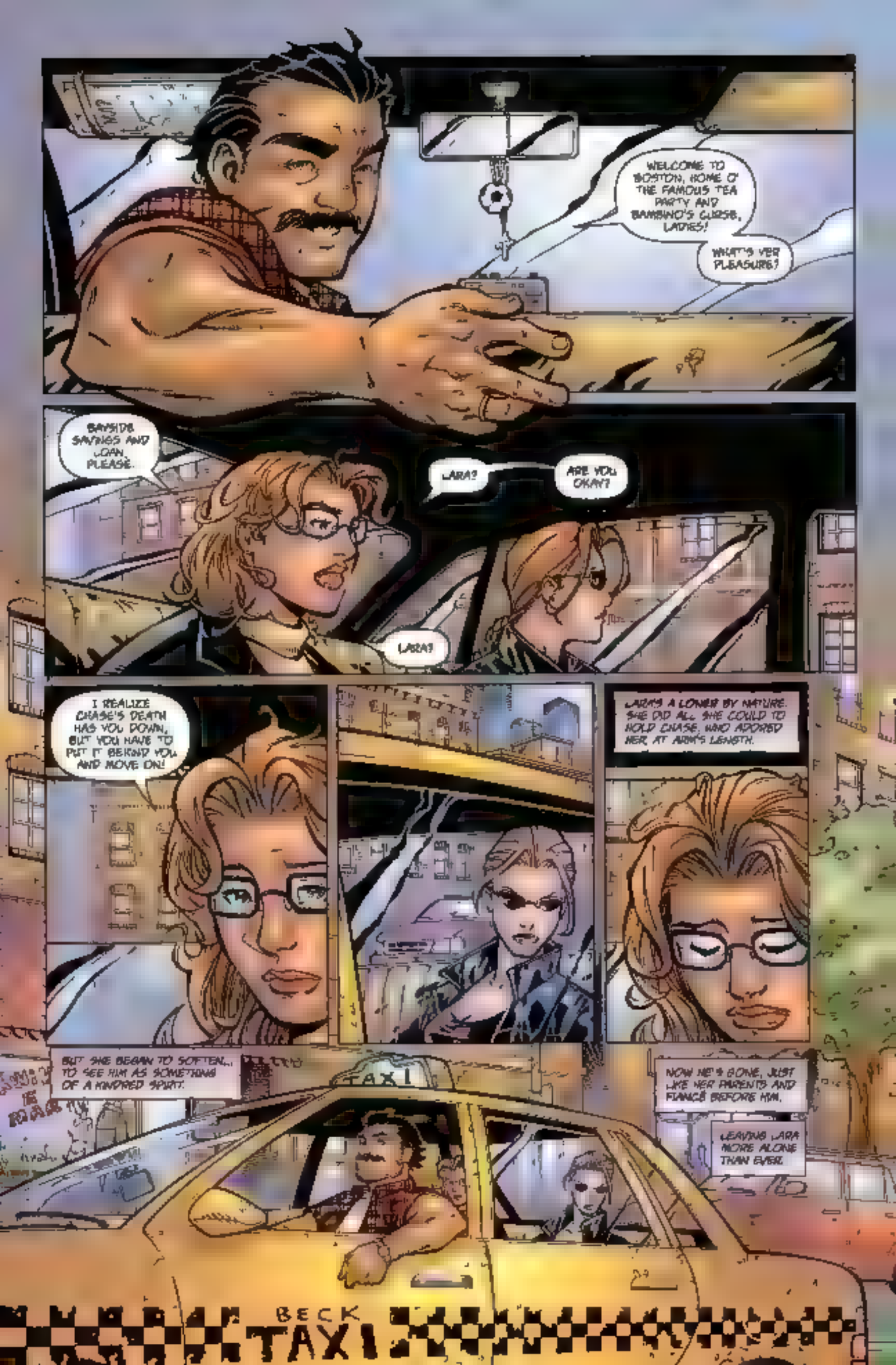
LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
AND J. D. BRUCE

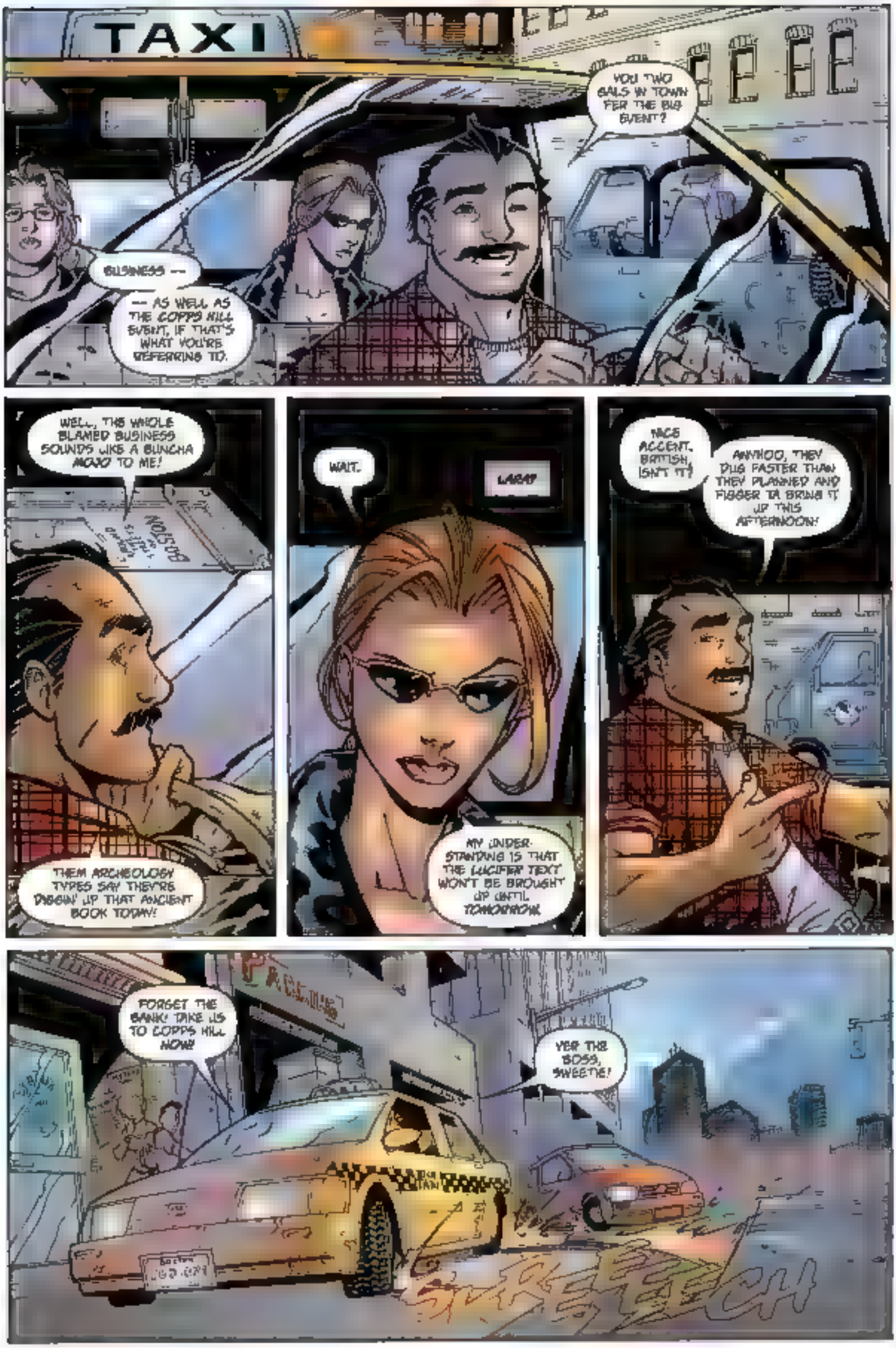
COVER PENCILS
ANDY PARK

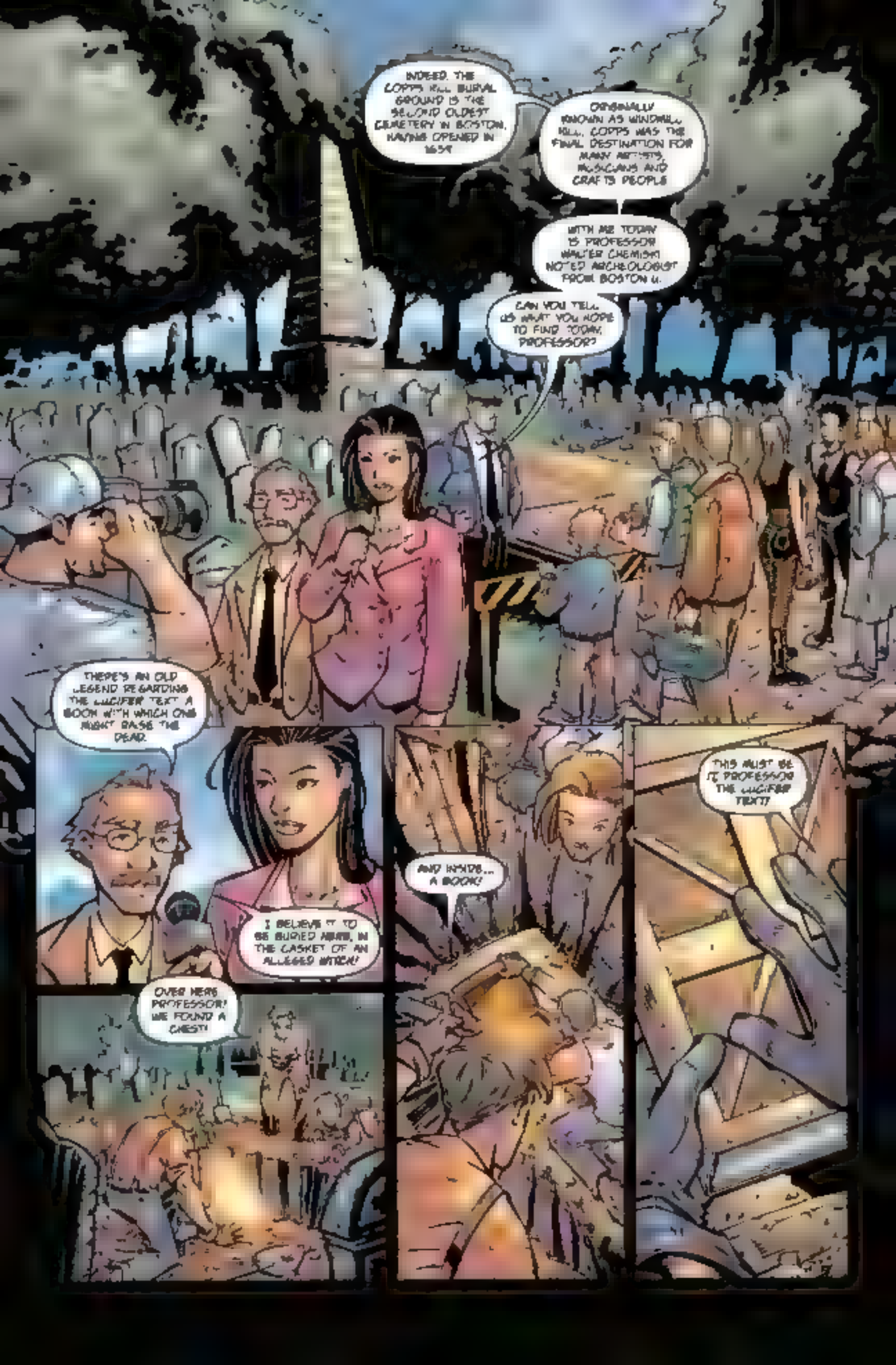
COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

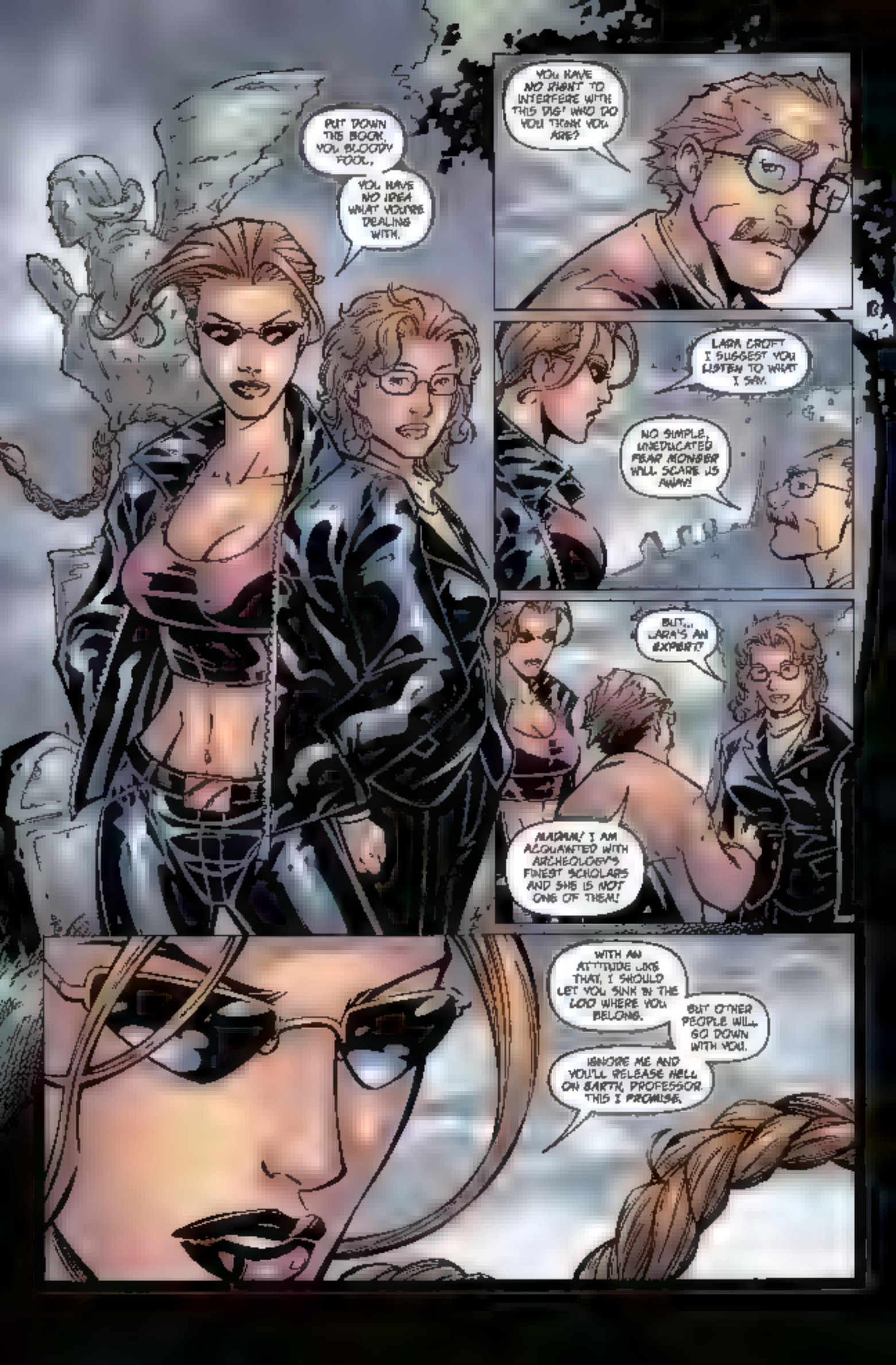
COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

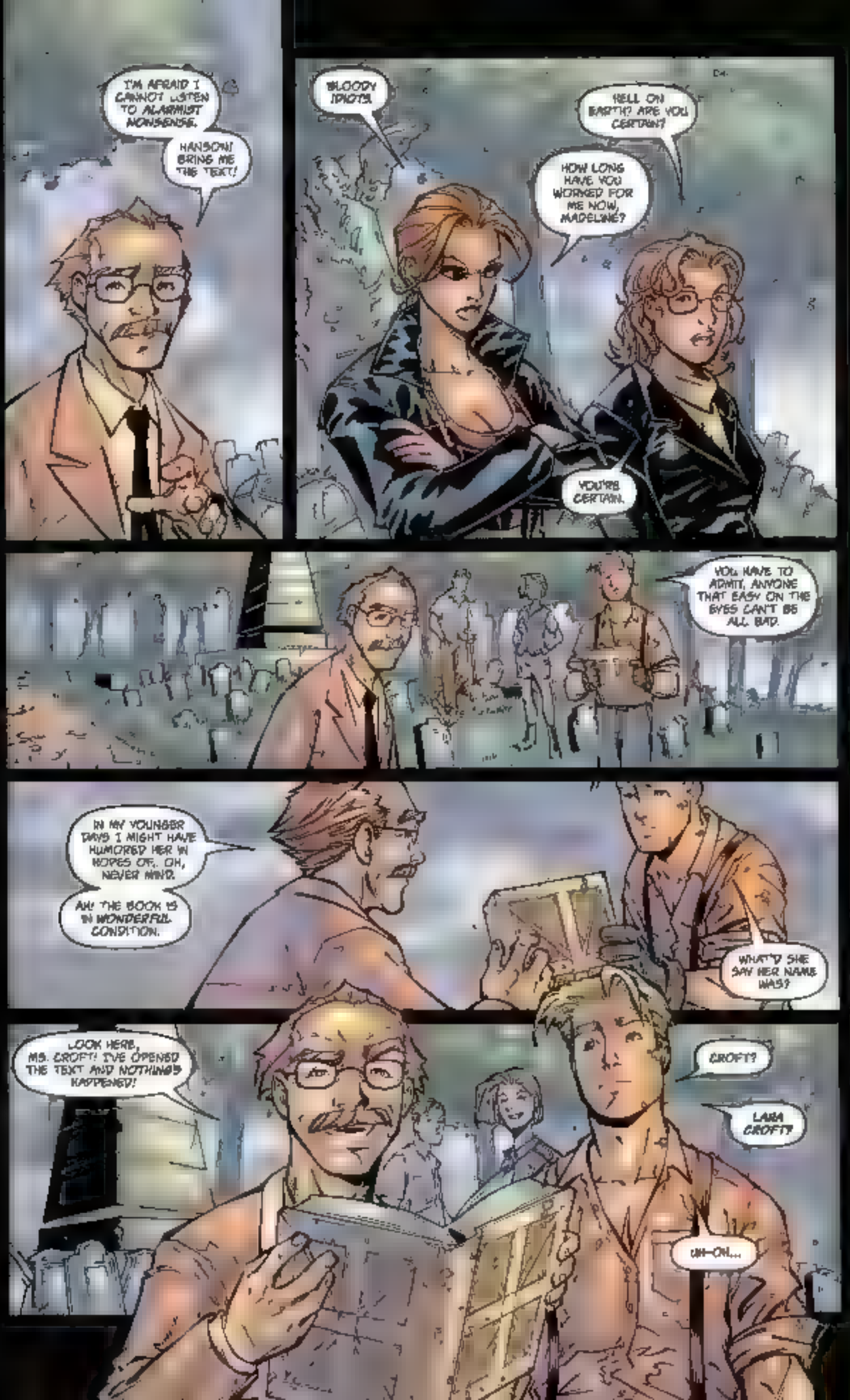
I'M MADELINE HOWARD.
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO I WENT TO WORK FOR LARA CROFT. UNDOUBTEDLY THE SINGLE, MOST UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL I'VE EVER MET.
THREE DAYS AGO SHE RETURNED FROM HONDURAS WITH THE TRAGIC NEWS OF CHASE CARVER'S DEATH.
SHE'S TRYING TO CONVINCE HERSELF THAT HIS PASSING HASN'T AFFECTED HER DEEPLY.
THE FACT THAT SHE'S BARELY UTTERED TWO WORDS SINCE RETURNING SUGGESTS OTHERWISE.


WELCOME TO BOSTON, HOME O' THE FAMOUS TEA PARTY AND BAMBINO'S CURSE, LADIES!
WHAT'S YER PLEASURE?
BAYSIDE SAVINGS AND LOAN, PLEASE.
LARA?
ARE YOU OKAY?
LARA?
I REALIZE CHASE'S DEATH HAS YOU DOWN, BUT YOU HAVE TO PUT IT BEHIND YOU AND MOVE ON!
LARA'S A LONER BY NATURE. SHE DID ALL SHE COULD TO HOLD CHASE, WHO ADORED HER, AT ARM'S LENGTH.
BUT SHE BEGAN TO SOFTEN... TO SEE HIM AS SOMETHING OF A KINDRED SPIRIT.
NOW HE'S GONE, JUST LIKE HER PARENTS AND FIANCÉ BEFORE HIM.
LEAVING LARA MORE ALONE THAN EVER.
TAXI
BECK
TAXI

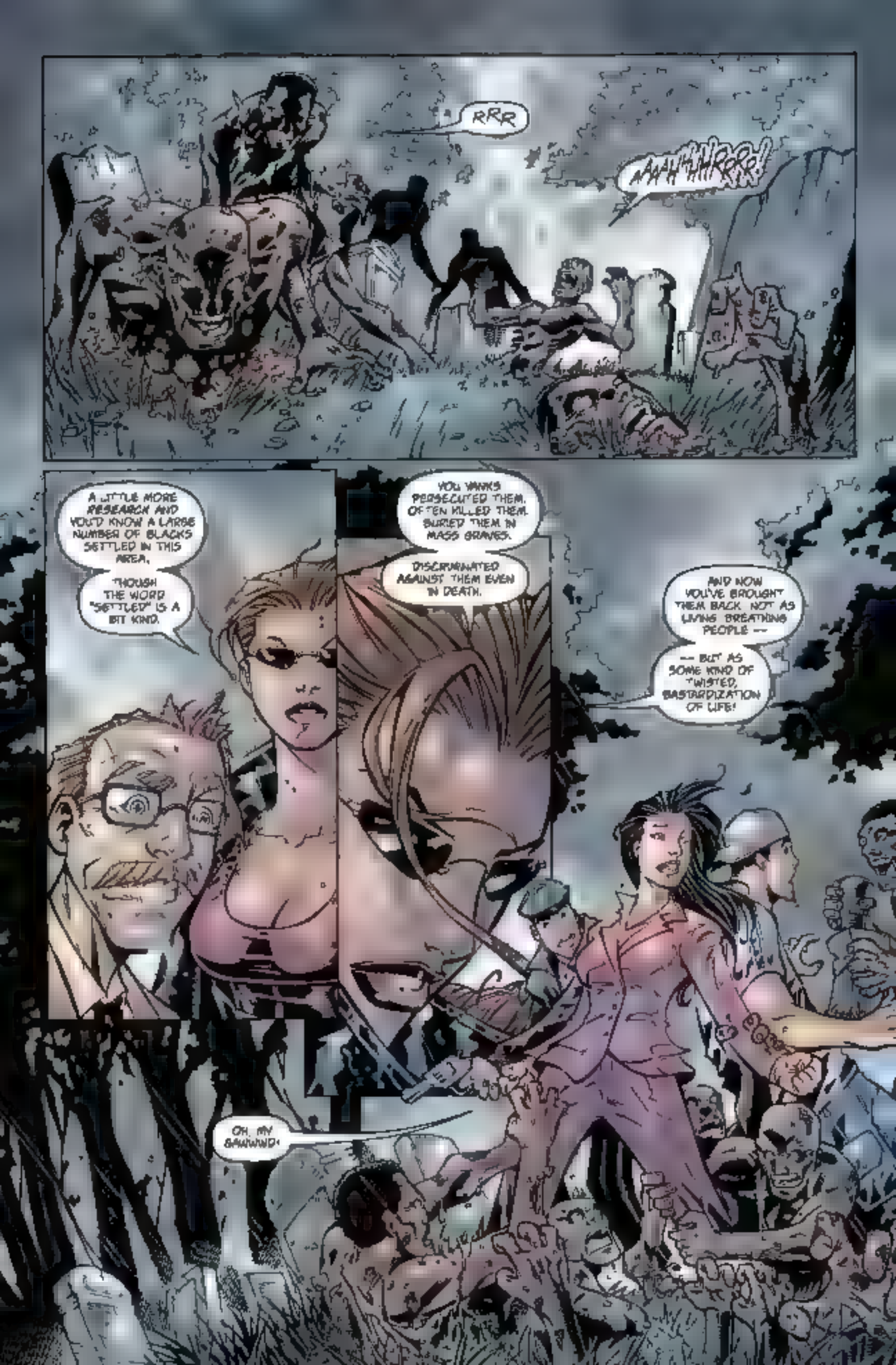

TAXI
YOU TWO GALS IN TOWN FER THE BIG EVENT?
BUSINESS --
-- AS WELL AS THE COPPS HILL EVENT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO.
WELL, THIS WHOLE BLAMED BUSINESS SOUNDS LIKE A BUNCHA MOJO TO ME!
THEM ARCHEOLOGY TYPES SAY THEY'RE DIGGIN' UP THAT ANCIENT BOOK TODAY!
WAIT.
LASAT
MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE LUCIFER TEXT WON'T BE BROUGHT UP UNTIL TOMORROW.
NICE ACCENT. BRITISH, ISN'T IT?
ANYHOO, THEY DUG FASTER THAN THEY PLANNED AND FIGGER TA BRING IT UP THIS AFTERNOON!
FORGET THE BANK! TAKE US TO COPPS HILL NOW!
YER THE BOSS, SWEETIE!
SKETCH


INDEED. THE COPPS HILL BURIAL GROUND IS THE SECOND OLDEST CEMETERY IN BOSTON, HAVING OPENED IN 1659
ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS WINDMILL HILL, COPPS WAS THE FINAL DESTINATION FOR MANY ARTISTS, MUSICIANS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE
WITH ME TODAY IS PROFESSOR WALTER CHEMISH NOTED ARCHEOLOGIST FROM BOSTON U.
CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU HOPE TO FIND TODAY, PROFESSOR?
THERE'S AN OLD LEGEND REGARDING THE LUCIFER TEXT A BOOK WITH WHICH ONE MIGHT RAISE THE DEAD.
I BELIEVE IT TO BE BURIED HERE, IN THE CASKET OF AN ALLEGED WITCH!
OVER HERE PROFESSOR! WE FOUND A CHEST!
AND INSIDE... A BOOK!
THIS MUST BE IT, PROFESSOR THE LUCIFER TEXT!

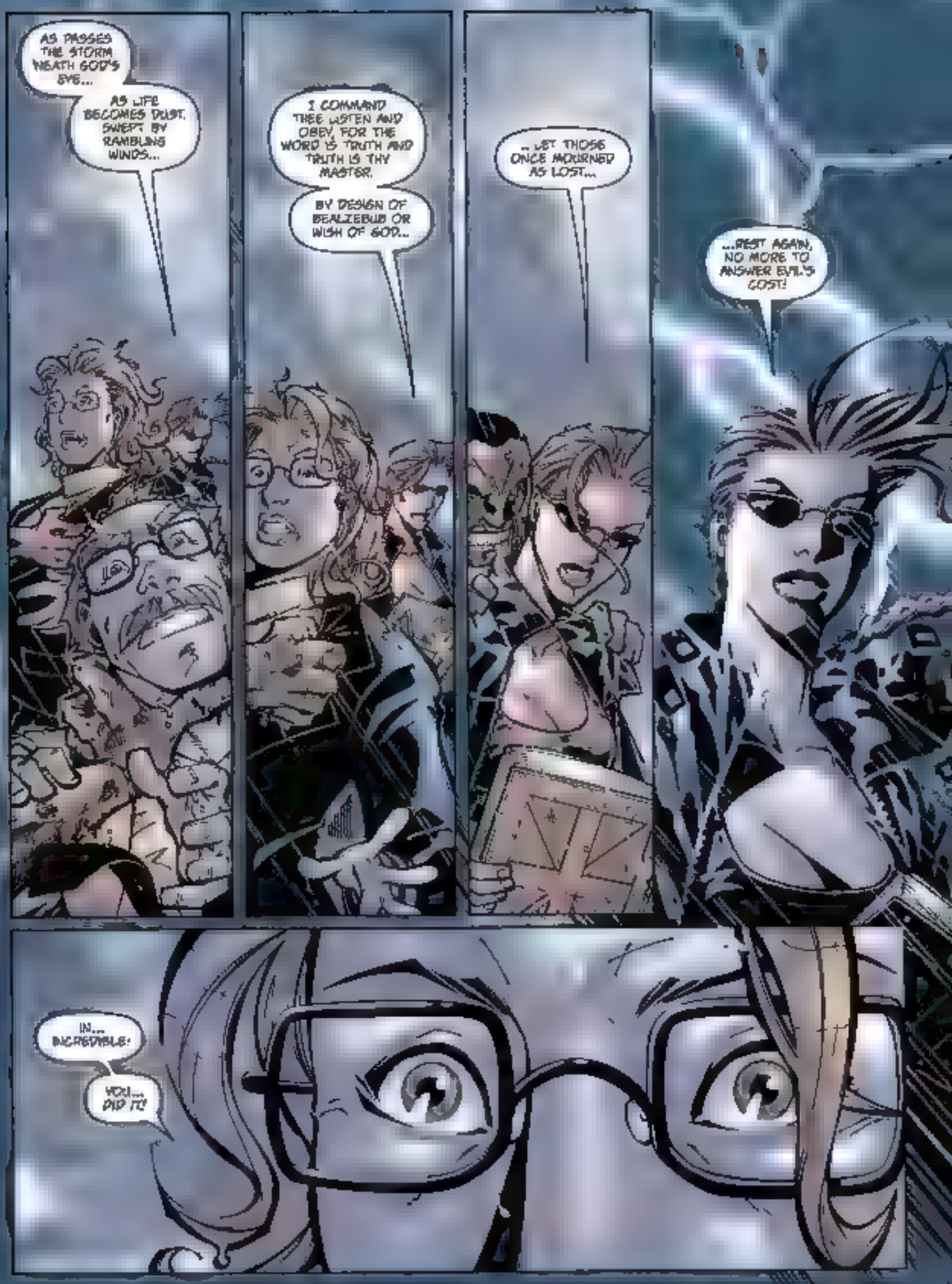

PUT DOWN THIS BOOK, YOU BLOODY FOOL.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THIS DIG! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
LARA CROFT I SUGGEST YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY.
NO SIMPLE, UNEDUCATED PEAK MONGER WILL SCARE US AWAY!
BUT... LARA'S AN EXPERT!
MADAM! I AM ACQUAINTED WITH ARCHEOLOGY'S FINEST SCHOLARS AND SHE IS NOT ONE OF THEM!
WITH AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT, I SHOULD LET YOU SINK IN THE LOO WHERE YOU BELONG.
BUT OTHER PEOPLE WILL GO DOWN WITH YOU.
IGNORE ME AND YOU'LL RELEASE HELL ON EARTH, PROFESSOR. THIS I PROMISE.


I'M AFRAID I CANNOT LISTEN TO ALARMIST NONSENSE.
HANSON! BRING ME THE TEXT!
BLOODY IDIOT!
HELL ON EARTH? ARE YOU CERTAIN?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED FOR ME NOW, MADELINE?
YOU'RE CERTAIN.
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, ANYONE THAT EASY ON THE EYES CAN'T BE ALL BAD.
IN MY YOUNGER DAYS I MIGHT HAVE HUMORED HER IN HOPES OF... OH, NEVER MIND.
AH! THE BOOK IS IN WONDERFUL CONDITION.
WHAT'D SHE SAY HER NAME WAS?
LOOK HERE, MS. CROFT! I'VE OPENED THE TEXT AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED!
CROFT?
LARA CROFT?
UH-OH...

SOME ITEMS ARE INFUSED WITH MAGIC, PROFESSOR.
MAGIC WE CAN'T CONTROL.
THAT BOOK IS ONE OF THEM. SURE, IT CAN RAISE THE DEAD.
BUT THAT'S ONLY PART OF THE STORY
IT'S POWER ONLY WORKS ON THOSE WHO DIED AT THE HANDS OF EVIL.
ANGRY PEOPLE WITH RESTLESS SOULS.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF NASTY BURIED HERE --
AND WE'RE ABOUT TO MEET THEM ALL!

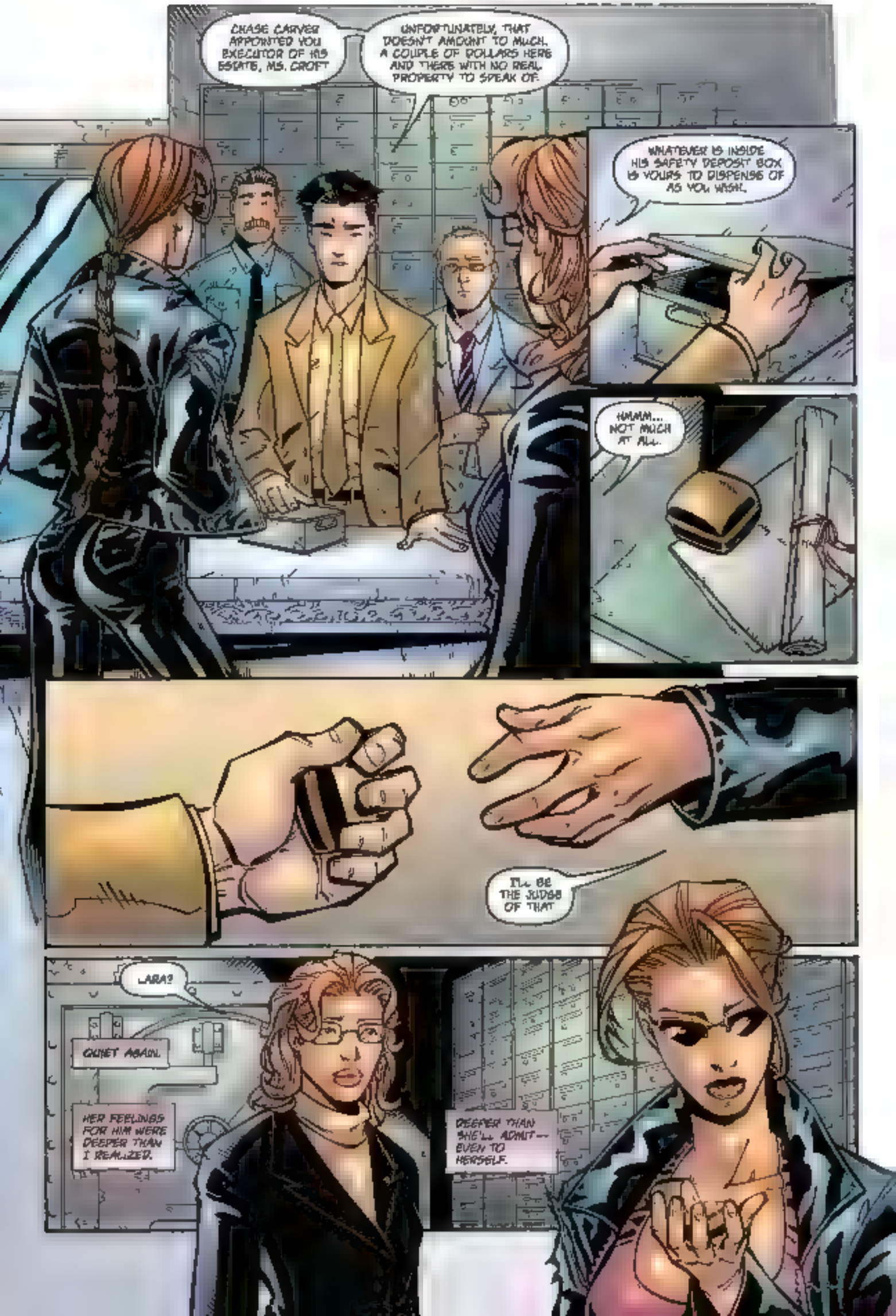

RRR
AAAHHHRRR!
A LITTLE MORE RESEARCH AND YOU'D KNOW A LARGE NUMBER OF BLACKS SETTLED IN THIS AREA.
THOUGH THE WORD "SETTLED" IS A BIT KIND.
YOU YANKS PERSECUTED THEM. OFTEN KILLED THEM. BURIED THEM IN MASS GRAVES.
DISCRIMINATED AGAINST THEM EVEN IN DEATH.
AND NOW YOU'VE BROUGHT THEM BACK. NOT AS LIVING BREATHING PEOPLE --
-- BUT AS SOME KIND OF TWISTED, BASTARDIZATION OF LIFE!
OH, MY GAWWWD!

GRRRT..
BACK! GET BACK OR I'LL—!
AIIIEEE!
OH DEAR! MEGA...WHAT WILL WE DO!
GIVE ME THE BOOK.
THE BOOK
WHY, THAT'S UNTHINKABLE! I CAN'T POSSIBLY—!
AMATEUR.

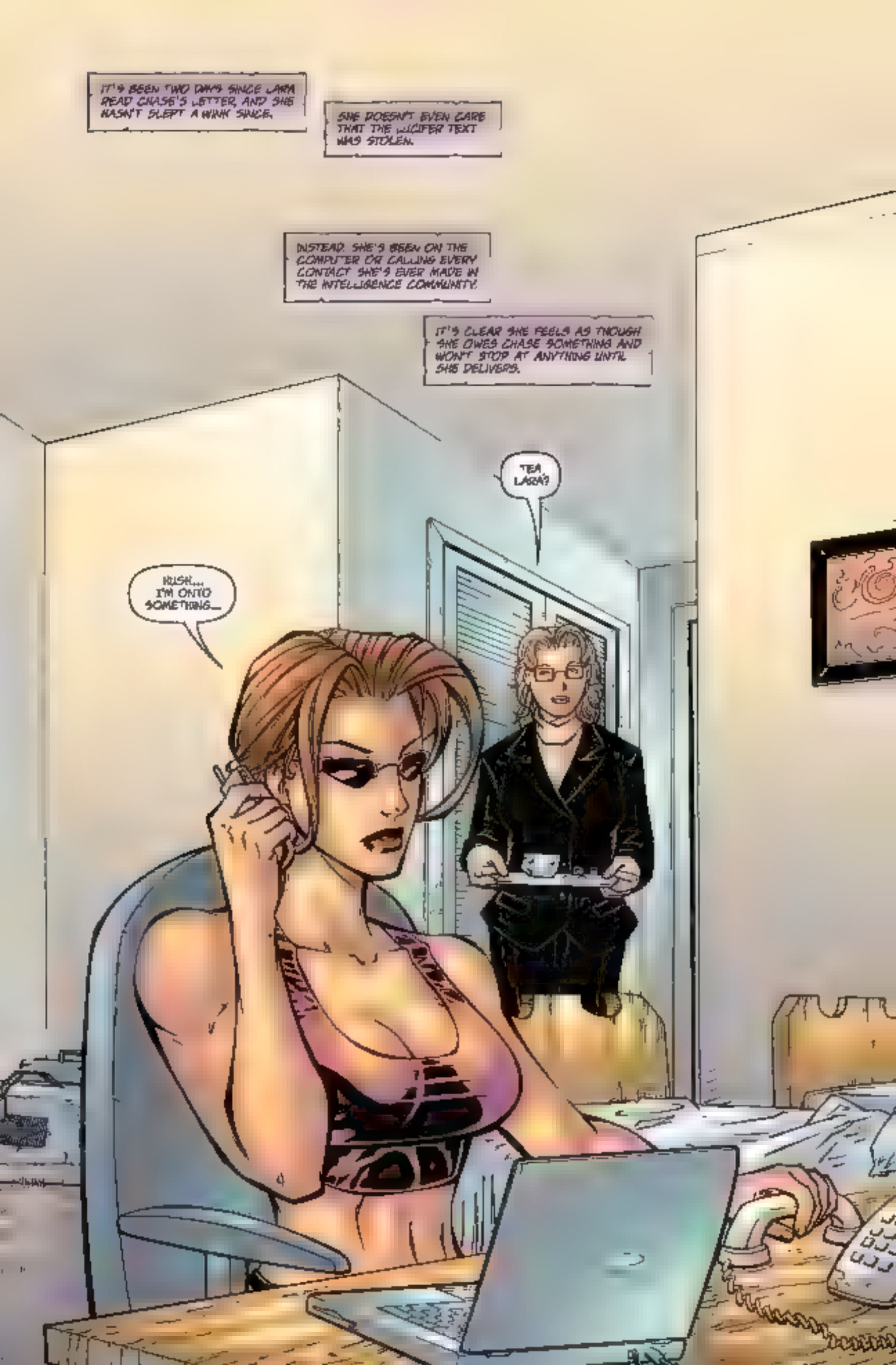

AS PASSES THE STORM WEATH GOD'S EVE...
AS LIFE BECOMES DUST, SWEPT BY RAMBLING WINDS...
I COMMAND THEE LISTEN AND OBEY, FOR THE WORD IS TRUTH AND TRUTH IS THY MASTER.
BY DESIGN OF BEALZEBUB OR WISH OF GOD...
...LET THOSE ONCE MOURNED AS LOST...
...REST AGAIN, NO MORE TO ANSWER EVIL'S COST!
IN... INCREDIBLE!
YOU... DID IT?

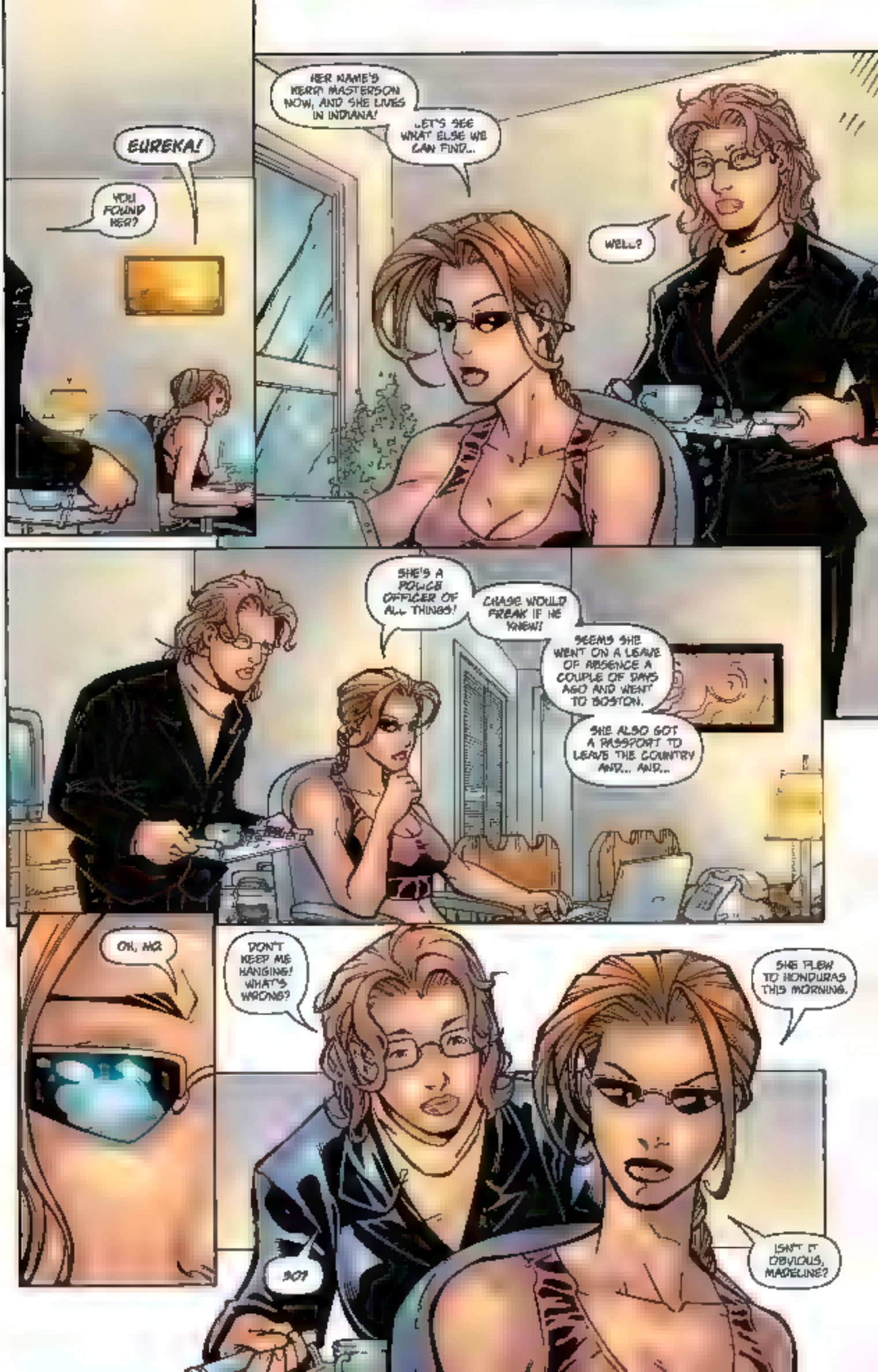
NATURALLY.
HOW...HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO KNOW...
BEFORE IT BECOMES A PROBLEM.
SOME THINGS AREN'T MEANT TO BE DUG UP, PROFESSOR.
LIKE FEELINGS, PERHAPS?
I'LL PUT IT BACK, I PROMISE.
AND PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES.
MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOUR WORD, PROFESSOR. OR THOSE JGLIES WILL COME BACK AND FIND YOU IN YOUR SLEEP.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THE TEXT WAS BURIED HERE?
YEARS.
BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE.
LIKE THE FACT YOU LOVED CHASE.
I DIDN'T -
TAXI

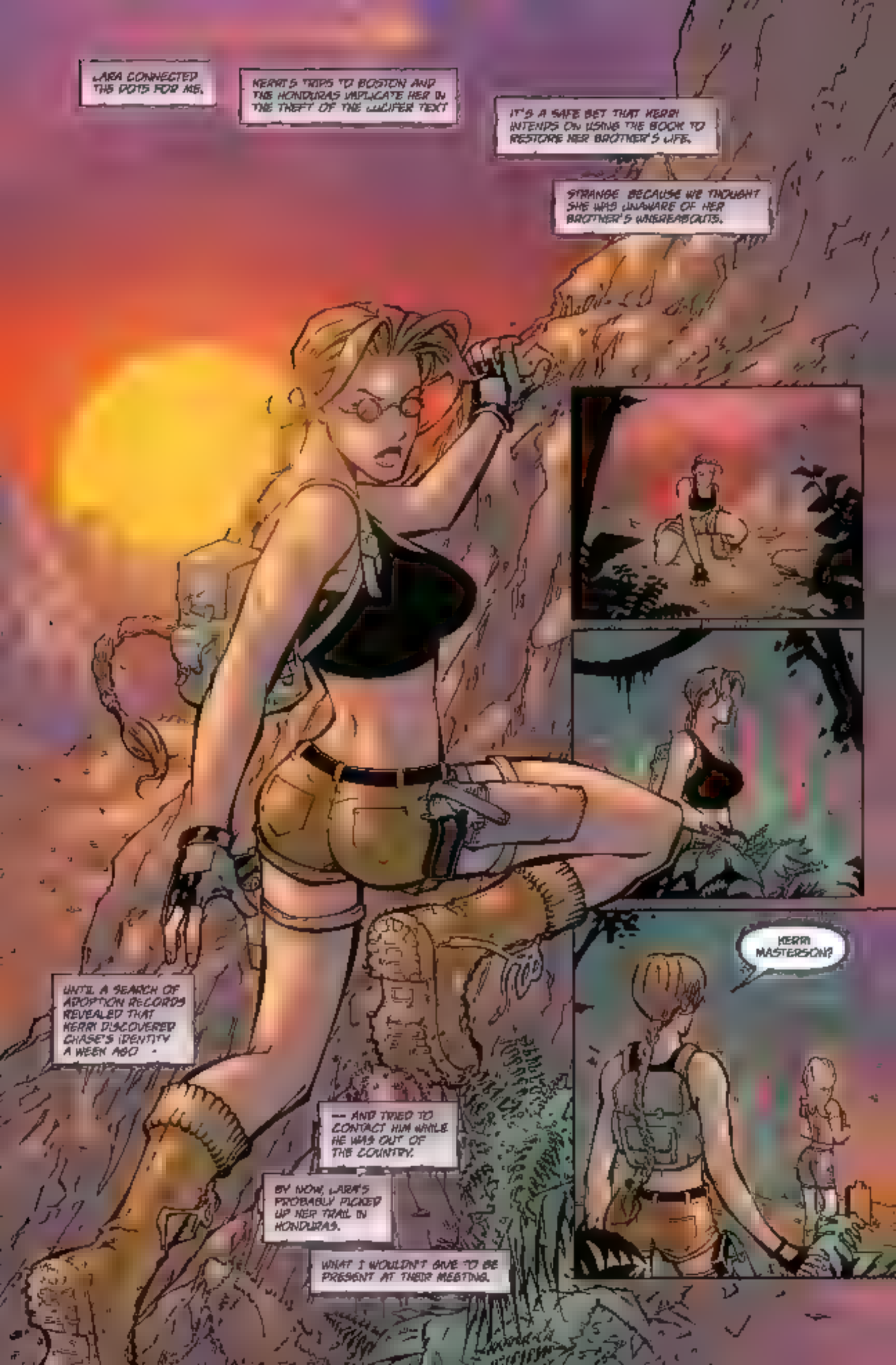
OUR HISTORY WAS...COMPLICATED! SURE I'M SORRY HE DIED BUT DON'T READ MORE INTO IT THAN THAT!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS..TO THINK I HAVE TO RETURN THIS TO ITS RESTING PLACE...
I DON'T THINK SO.
THE TEXT?
COME BACK BEFORE I- I-
OH, DEAR! THAT CROFT WOMAN WILL HAVE MY HEAD!
THANK YOU FOR COMING, MS. CROFT. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SYMPATHIES ON THE LOSS OF YOUR FRIEND.
TAXI

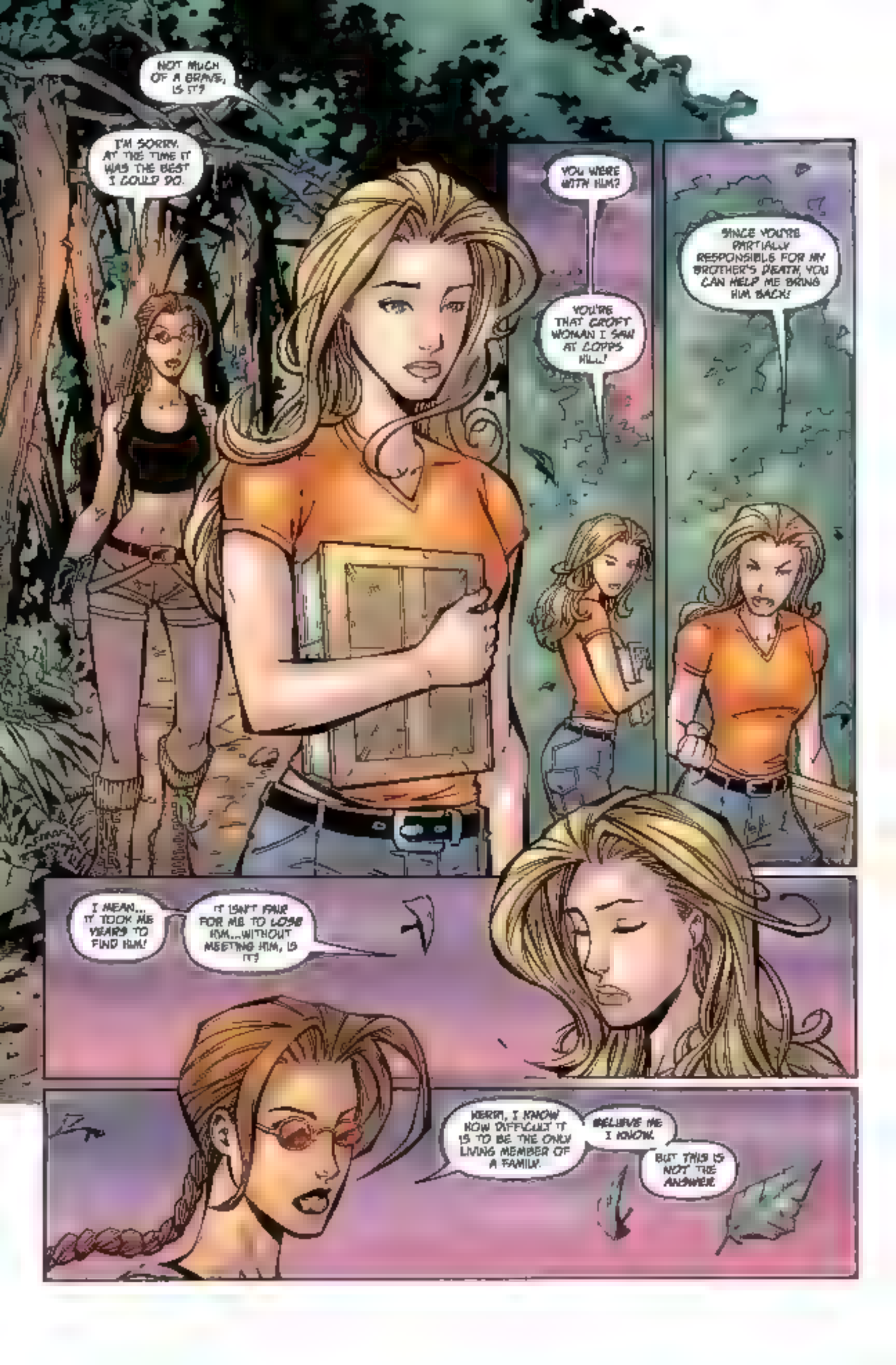

CHASE CARVER APPOINTED YOU EXECUTOR OF HIS ESTATE, MS. CROFT
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT DOESN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH. A COUPLE OF DOLLARS HERE AND THERE WITH NO REAL PROPERTY TO SPEAK OF.
WHATEVER IS INSIDE HIS SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX IS YOURS TO DISPENSE OF AS YOU WISH.
HMMM... NOT MUCH AT ALL.
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT
LARA?
QUIET AGAIN.
HER FEELINGS FOR HIM WERE DEEPER THAN I REALIZED.
DEEPER THAN SHE'LL ADMIT-- EVEN TO HERSELF.

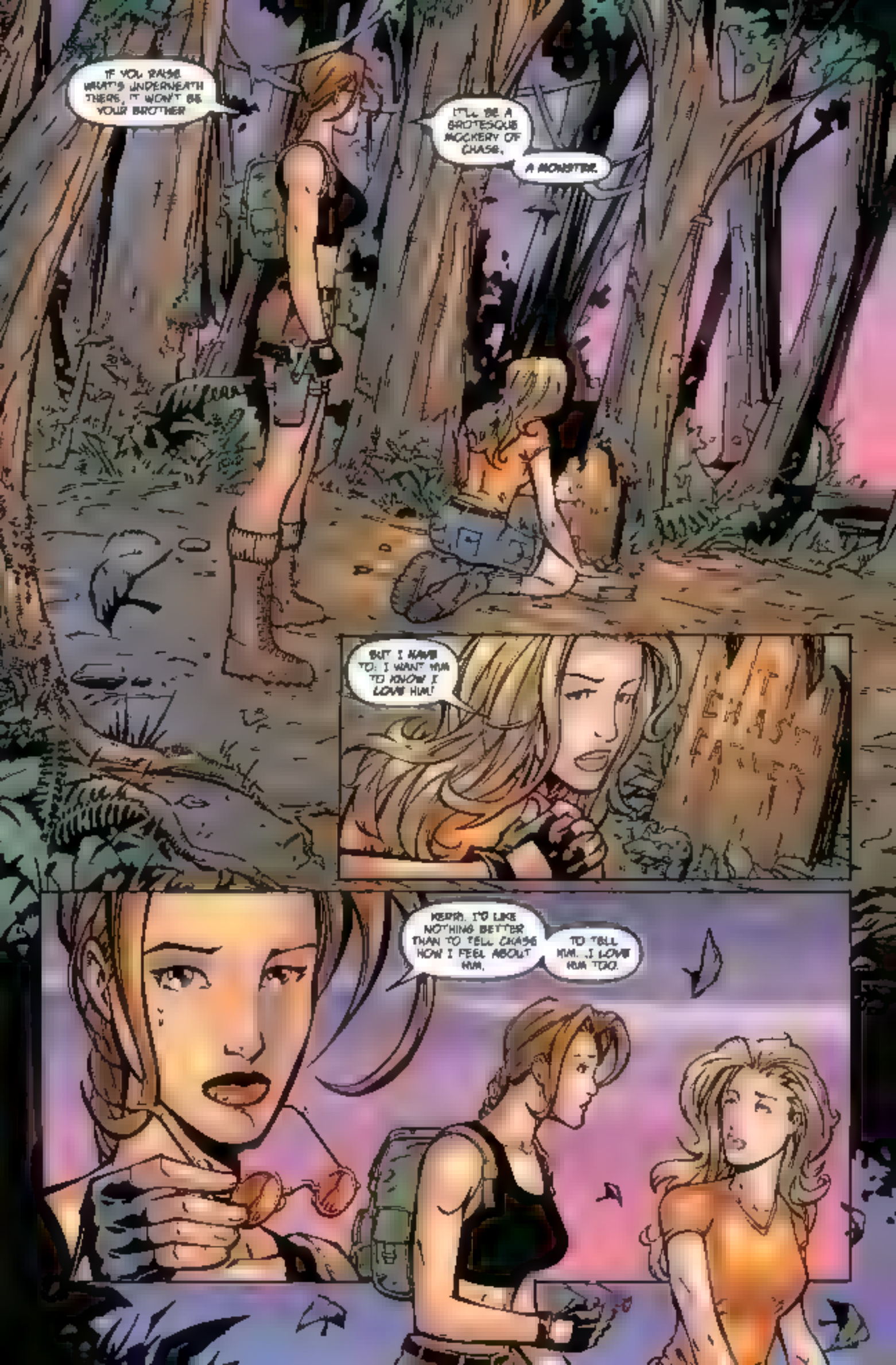
DEAR LARA,
IF YOU'RE READING THIS IT MEANS THAT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE GREAT DUSTY TRAIL OF LIFE THINGS WENT BAD FOR ME. NOT SURPRISING, CONSIDERING ALL THE WRONG TURNS I MADE. THE WORST OF WHICH WAS LETTING YOU GO. PLEASE REALIZE THAT NOT ONE DAY HAS GONE BY THAT I HAVEN'T REGRETTED HURTING YOU THE WAY I DID IN MONACO. I WAS WRONG AND TO THIS DAY, I WISH I COULD GO BACK AND LIVE IT OVER. KNOW THAT WHEREVER I END UP, YOU HAVE THE SINCEREST APOLOGY I AM CAPABLE OF MAKING.
THE RING IN YOUR HAND IS MY MOTHER'S ENGAGEMENT RING. AS YOU KNOW, WE WERE POOR AND MY DAD MAY DIED OUT ON US WHEN I WAS A KID. WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW IS THAT I ALSO HAD A LITTLE SISTER. BUT MOM DIED A COUPLE OF YEARS LATER AND MY SISTER AND I FELL INTO THE CRACKS OF THE SYSTEM, SEPARATED AS WE BOUNCED FROM ONE FOSTER HOME TO THE NEXT. I'VE YET TO LOOK FOR HER, THINKING SHE WOULDN'T WANT TO KNOW A WRETCH LIKE ME. BUT I WANT HER TO HAVE THIS RING. IT'S THE ONLY THING OUR FAMILY HAS LEFT WHEN IT COMES TO HUNTING THINGS DOWN, YOU'RE THE BEST. AND I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ASK. BUT I HOPE YOU'LL FIND MY SISTER AND GIVE HER MOM'S RING. I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST. SHE AND ONE DESERVES IT MORE. HAPPY HUNTING.
CHASE.

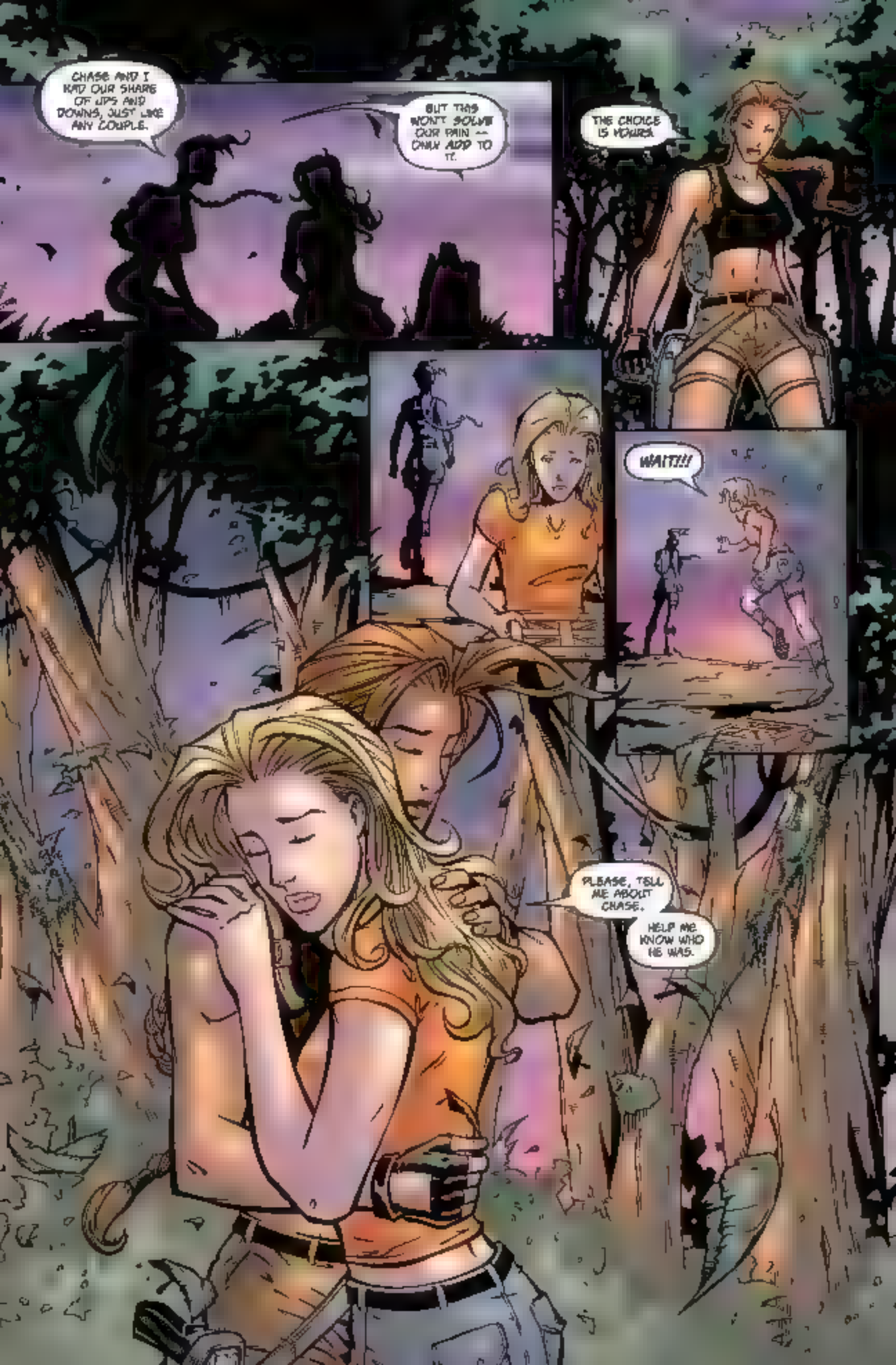

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE LARA READ CHASE'S LETTER, AND SHE HASN'T SLEPT A WINK SINCE.
SHE DOESN'T EVEN CARE THAT THE LUCIFER TEXT WAS STOLEN.
INSTEAD, SHE'S BEEN ON THE COMPUTER OR CALLING EVERY CONTACT SHE'S EVER MADE IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.
IT'S CLEAR SHE FEELS AS THOUGH SHE OWES CHASE SOMETHING AND WON'T STOP AT ANYTHING UNTIL SHE DELIVERS.
TEA, LARA?
HUSH... I'M ONTO SOMETHING...

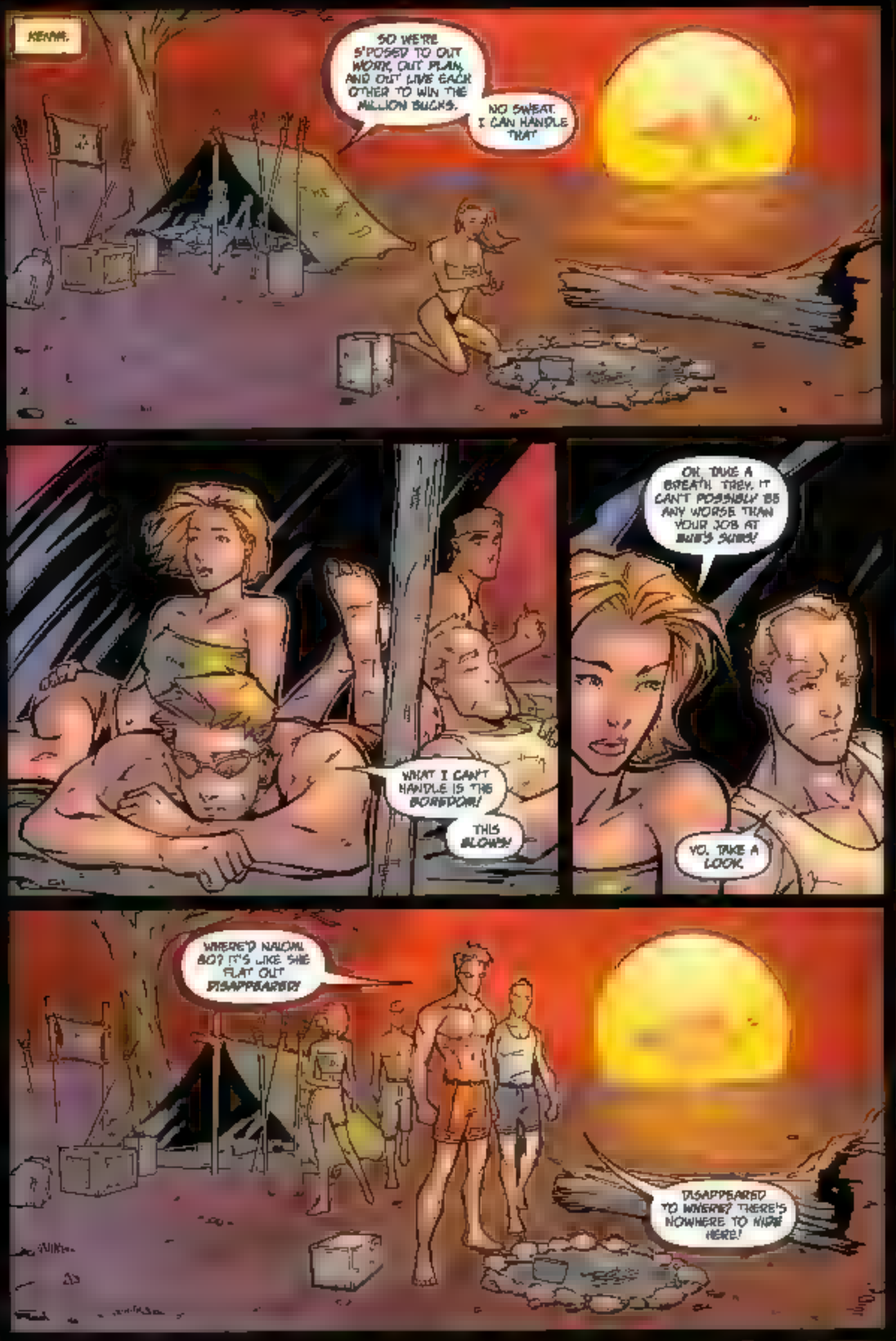

EUREKA!
YOU FOUND HER?
HER NAME'S KERRI MASTERSON NOW, AND SHE LIVES IN INDIANA!
LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE WE CAN FIND...
WELL?
SHE'S A POLICE OFFICER OF ALL THINGS!
CHASE WOULD FREAK IF HE KNEW!
SEEMS SHE WENT ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO AND WENT TO BOSTON.
SHE ALSO GOT A PASSPORT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND... AND...
OH, NO.
DON'T KEEP ME HANGING! WHAT'S WRONG?
SHE FLEW TO HONDURAS THIS MORNING.
NO?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, MADELINE?


LARA CONNECTED THE DOTS FOR ME.
KERRI'S TRIPS TO BOSTON AND THE HONDURAS IMPLICATE HER IN THE THEFT OF THE LUCIFER TEXT
IT'S A SAFE BET THAT KERRI INTENDS ON USING THE BOOK TO RESTORE HER BROTHER'S LIFE.
STRANGE BECAUSE WE THOUGHT SHE WAS UNAWARE OF HER BROTHER'S WHEREABOUTS.
KERRI MASTERSON?
UNTIL A SEARCH OF ADOPTION RECORDS REVEALED THAT KERRI DISCOVERED CHASE'S IDENTITY A WEEK AGO.
-- AND TRIED TO CONTACT HIM WHILE HE WAS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
BY NOW, LARA'S PROBABLY PICKED UP HER TRAIL IN HONDURAS.
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO BE PRESENT AT THEIR MEETING.


NOT MUCH OF A BRAVE, IS IT?
I'M SORRY. AT THE TIME IT WAS THE BEST I COULD DO.
YOU WERE WITH HIM?
YOU'RE THAT CROFT WOMAN I SAW AT COPPS HILL!
SINCE YOU'RE PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY BROTHER'S DEATH, YOU CAN HELP ME BRING HIM BACK!
I MEAN... IT TOOK ME YEARS TO FIND HIM!
IT ISN'T FAIR FOR ME TO LOSE HIM...WITHOUT MEETING HIM, IS IT?
KERRY, I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO BE THE ONLY LIVING MEMBER OF A FAMILY.
BELIEVE ME I KNOW.
BUT THIS IS NOT THE ANSWER


IF YOU RAISE WHAT'S UNDERNEATH THERE, IT WON'T BE YOUR BROTHER
IT'LL BE A GROTESQUE MOCKERY OF CHASE.
A MONSTER.
BUT I HAVE TO. I WANT HIM TO KNOW I LOVE HIM!
KERRI. I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO TELL CHASE HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM.
TO TELL HIM...I LOVE HIM TOO.


CHASE AND I HAD OUR SHARE OF UPS AND DOWNS, JUST LIKE ANY COUPLE.
BUT THIS WON'T SOLVE OUR PAIN — ONLY ADD TO IT.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.
WAIT!!!
PLEASE, TELL ME ABOUT CHASE.
HELP ME KNOW WHO HE WAS.


KENNA.
SO WE'RE S'POSED TO OUT WORK, OUT PLAN, AND OUT LIVE EACH OTHER TO WIN THE MILLION BUCKS.
NO SWEAT. I CAN HANDLE THAT
WHAT I CAN'T HANDLE IS THIS BOREDOM!
THIS BLOWS!
OH. TAKE A BREATH, TREY. IT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE ANY WORSE THAN YOUR JOB AT BUD'S SUBS!
YO. TAKE A LOOK.
WHERE'D NALONI GO? IT'S LIKE SHE FLAT OUT DISAPPEARED!
DISAPPEARED TO WHERE? THERE'S NOWHERE TO HIDE HERE!

ALMOST LIKE THE EARTH OPENED UP
— AND SWALLOWED HER
— WHOLE?
YARRRGH!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE IN PIECES OF ZERO!!!

PIECES OF ZERO PART 1
JD SMITH
2001

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
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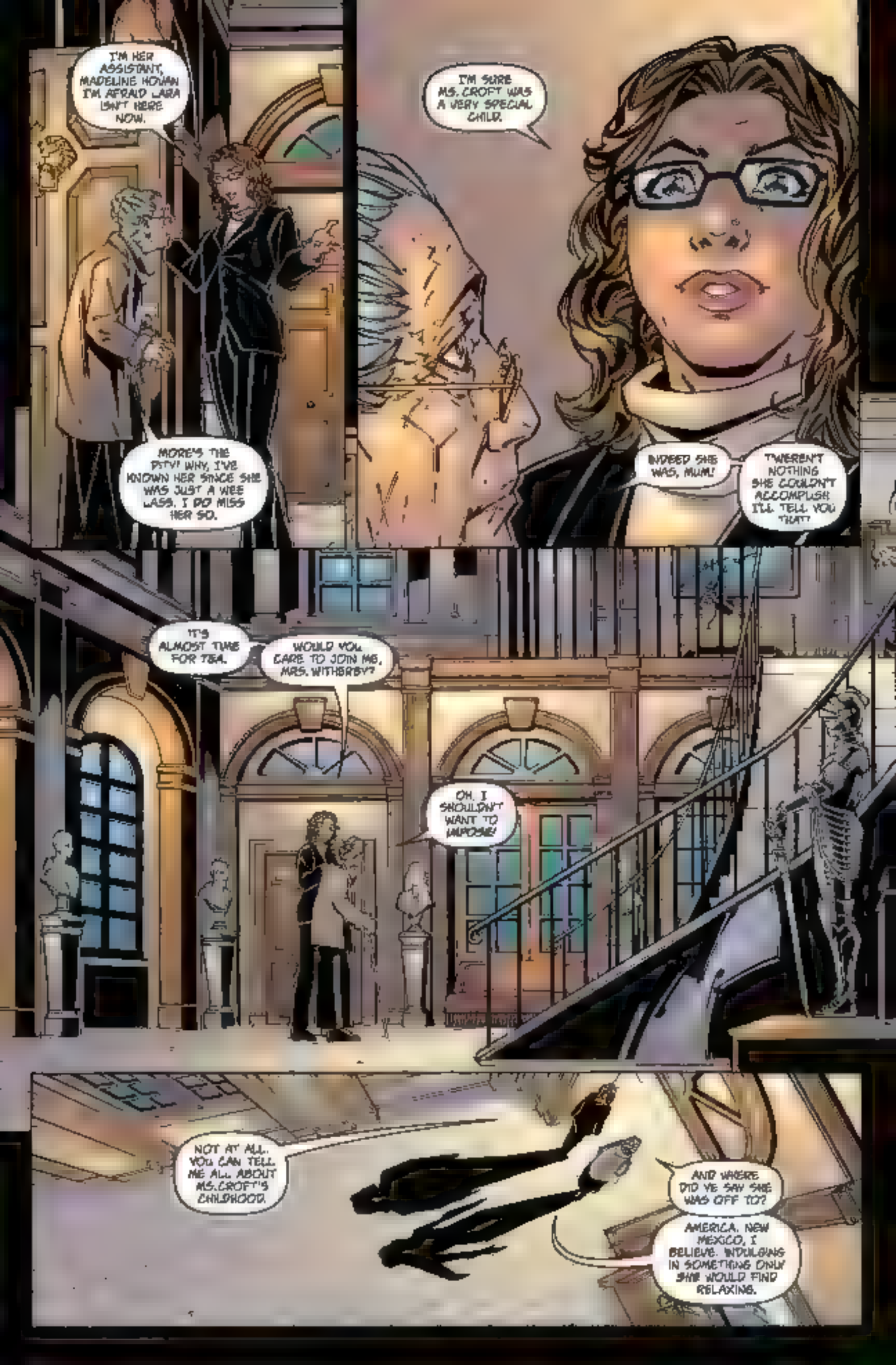
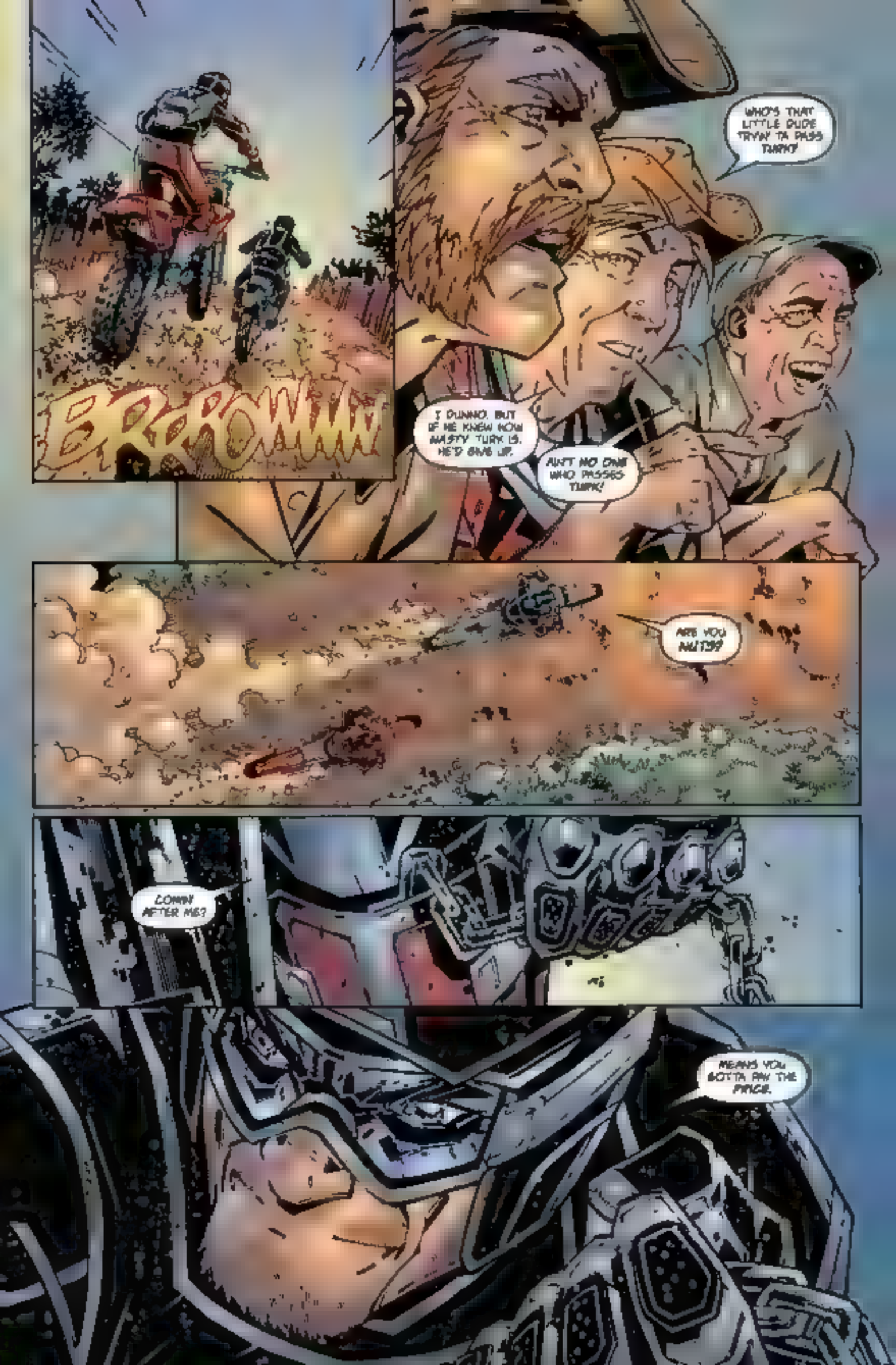
COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

EVEN IN ENGLAND, THE WARM SUMMER BREEZE HAS GIVEN WAY TO AUTUMN'S CRISP BITE.
AS WITH MOST ESTATES, THIS HOME'S GROUNDS HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE WINTER TO COME.
UNFORTUNATELY, PREPARING THE OCCUPANTS INSIDE FOR WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN
—IS IMPOSSIBLE.
WRACK WRACK WRACK
CAN I HELP YOU?
YES, MUM. I HAVEN'T SEEN DEAR LARA FOR AGES!
MIGHT YOU TELL HER THAT MRS. WITHERBY IS HERE PLEASE?

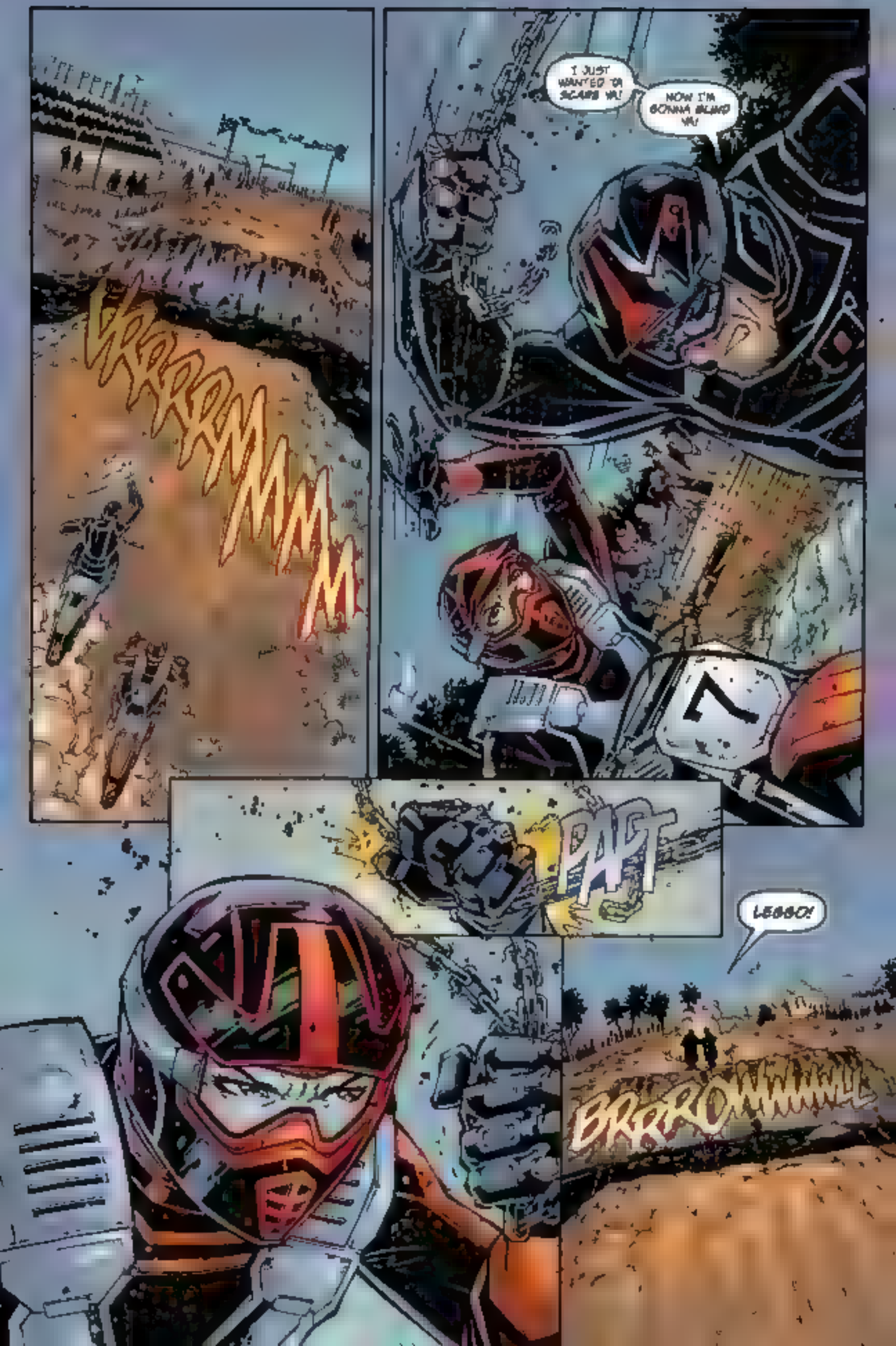

I'M HER ASSISTANT, MADELINE HOWAN I'M AFRAID LARA ISN'T HERE NOW.
I'M SURE MS. CROFT WAS A VERY SPECIAL CHILD.
MORE'S THE PITY! WHY, I'VE KNOWN HER SINCE SHE WAS JUST A WEE LASS. I DO MISS HER SO.
INDEED SHE WAS, MUM!
T'WEREN'T NOTHING SHE COULDN'T ACCOMPLISH! I'LL TELL YOU THAT!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR TEA.
WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME, MRS. WITHERBY?
OH, I SHOULDN'T WANT TO IMPOSE!
NOT AT ALL. YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT MS. CROFT'S CHILDHOOD.
AND WHERE DID YE SAY SHE WAS OFF TO?
AMERICA. NEW MEXICO, I BELIEVE. INDULGING IN SOMETHING ONLY SHE WOULD FIND RELAXING.

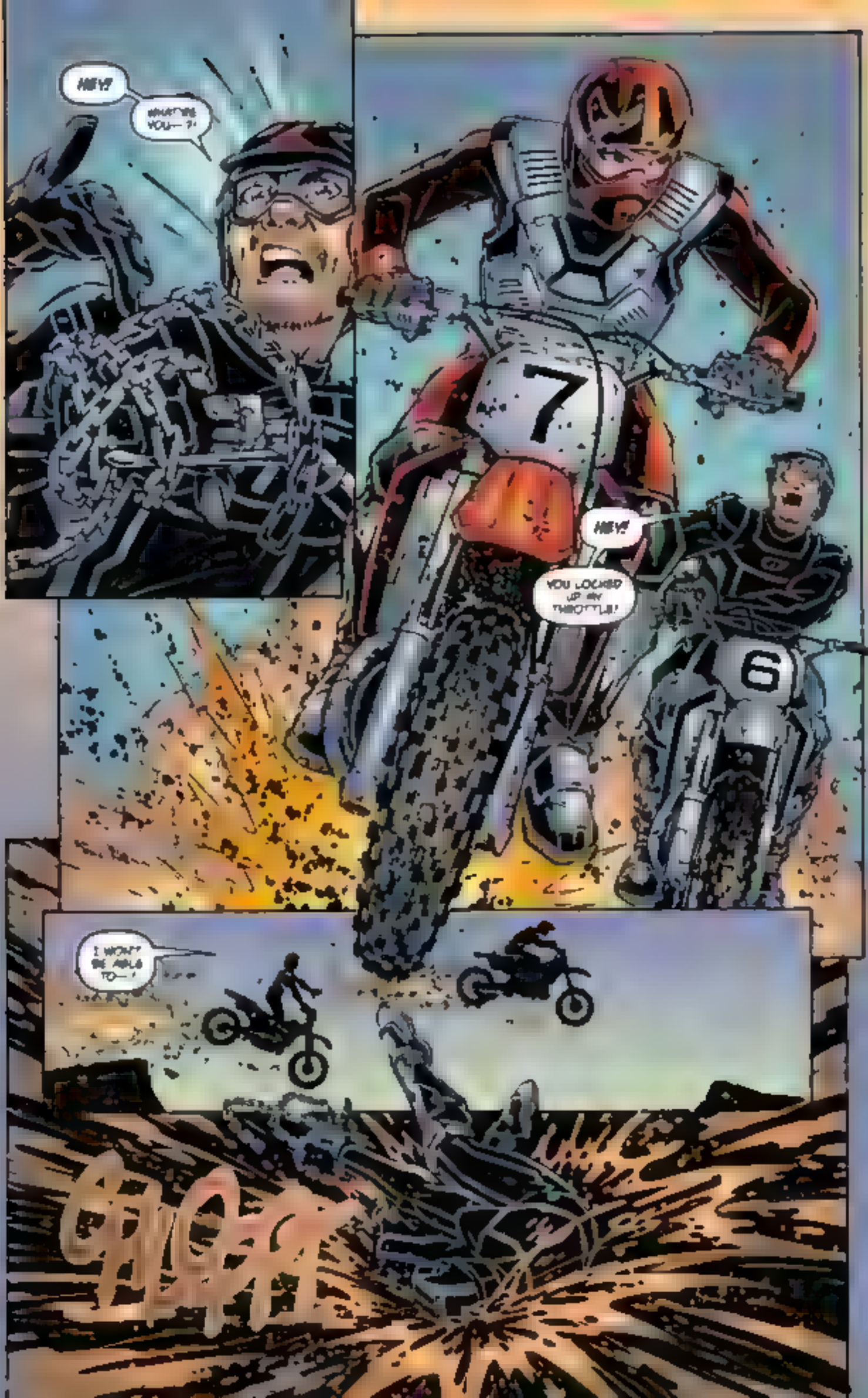
Pieces of ZERO

Part I of IV


WHO'S THAT LITTLE DUDE TRYIN' TA PASS TURK?
I DUNNO. BUT IF HE KNEW HOW NASTY TURK IS, HE'D GIVE UP.
AIN'T NO ONE WHO PASSES TURK!
ERRRR

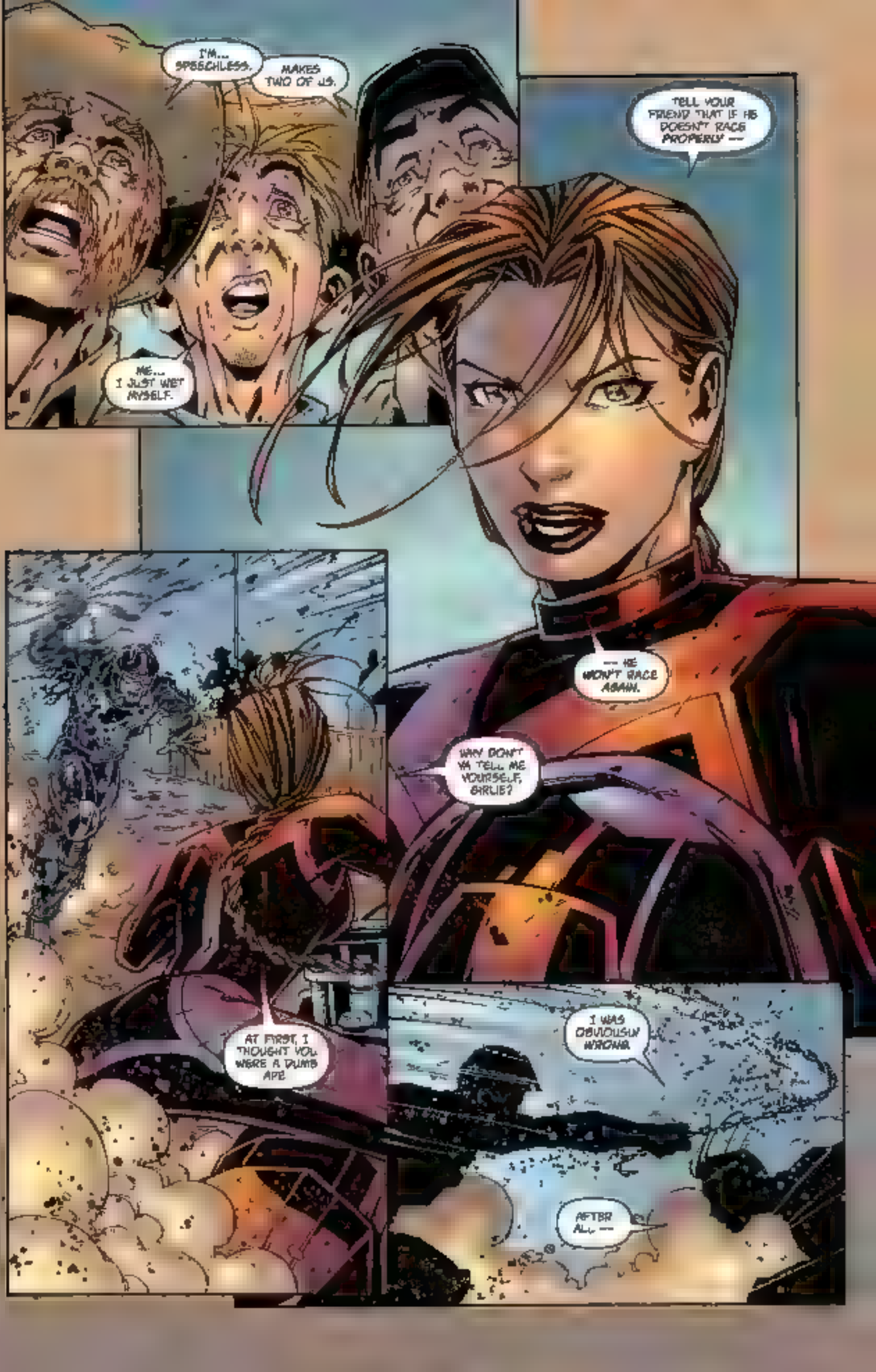
NNN!
BRRRMMMM
BROOMMMM
HE'S SPEEDIN UP!
MORON'S A GONER NOW!
VERY TURK'S GONNA RIP HIS HEAD CLEAN OFF AND STICK IT UP HIS EXHAUST PIPE!
SERVES HIM RIGHT!


I JUST WANTED TA SCARE YA!
NOW I'M GONNA BLIND YA!
VRRRMMM
PAT
LEGGO!
BRRROWWWWW


HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU—?!
7
HEY!
YOU LOCKED UP MY THROTTLE!
6
I WON'T BE ABLE TO—!

WHOA!
YKNOW WHAT YER LOOKIN AT, DON'T YA, BOYS?
DEAD MEAT 'CUZ THAT'S WHAT THAT LITTLE PELLER IS.
I GOT DIBS ON HIS BIKE THAT'S A SWEET PIECE O' MACHINE
VRRMMMM
THE WINNER!
I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF THAT WAY.
HOLY—!
BROTHER, I AM A MAN IN LOVE!
FORGET THE MACHINE IT'S A SWEET PIECE O' SUM'THIN ELSE I'M INTERESTED IN.

7


I'M... SPEECHLESS.
MAKES TWO OF US.
TELL YOUR FRIEND THAT IF HE DOESN'T RACE PROPERLY —
ME... I JUST WET MYSELF.
— HE WON'T RACE AGAIN.
WHY DON'T YA TELL ME YOURSELF, GIRLIE?
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A DUMB APE
I WAS OBVIOUSLY WRONG.
AFTER ALL —

-- I SHOULDN'T WANT TO INSULT APES --
THUD
BY COMPARING YOU TO THEM.
OH.
OH.
OH.
OH!
EASY. A STITCH HERE AND A STITCH THERE --
-- AND YOUR UROLOGIST MAY HAVE YOU FUNCTIONING IN A YEAR OR TWO.
THAT CHOPPER!
SAMMY?!
WHAT COULD HE WANT WITH ME?

THAT'S HER? THE TREASURE HUNTER?
MUST BE STYLES.
SHE LOOKS RATHER...ROUGH, WOULDN'T YOU SAY? NOT AT ALL THE WEALTHY WOMAN I'D ENVISIONED.
THIS IS REAL LIFE -- NOT CENTRAL CASTING!
I'D LIKE YOU FOLKS TO MEET LARA CROFT!
HOW YOU DOIN, KID?
MUCH BETTER NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, SAMMY! HOW ARE MINNIE AND THE BOYS?
WONDERFUL, SO LONG AS JUNIOR KEEPS HIS BUTT OUTTA JAIL.
THE APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE, SAMMY!
I FEEL LIKE I STUMBLED INTO A WALTONS REUNION SHOW!
LARA, MEET ALISSIA LEE AND HER COHORT STYLES. THEY PRODUCE "THE LAST."
NEVER HEARD OF IT.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?! PLUTO?
IT'S THE HOTTEST TV SHOW EVER! THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS WATCHING IT!
ENTIRE COUNTRY MINUS ONE. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

THE SHOW'S PREMISE IS A SIMPLE ONE.
WE TAKE YOUNG HARD BODIES TO REMOTE AREAS WHERE THEY COMPETE IN CONTESTS. ONE BY ONE THEY GET VOTED OUT!
UNTIL THERE'S ONE LEFT.
THE LAST.
FOR THAT HE GETS A COOL MIL.
SORRY. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN BEING ON TV.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THEY WANT, JAGA.
I SHOULD SAY NOT! WE WANT YOU TO FIND OUR CONTESTANTS AND CREW!
YES. YOU SEE, IT SEEMS WE SOMEHOW... LOST THEM.
LOST THEM?
YOU LOST -- PEOPLE!
IN AFRICA TWO DAYS AGO.
BUT IT WASN'T OUR FAULT!
THEY VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!

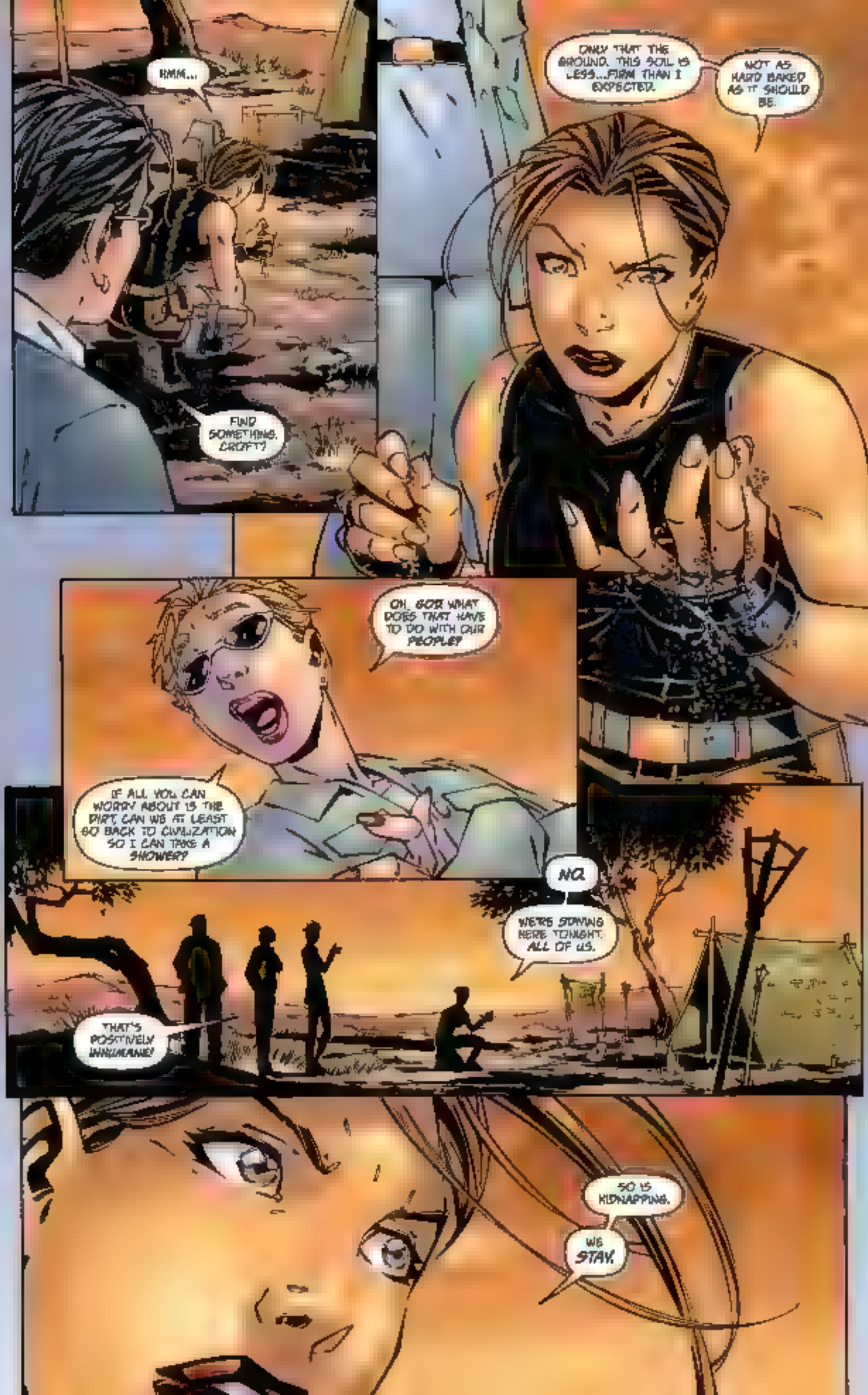
I'M SURE THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN HELP YOU MORE THAN I CAN!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT KIND OF NEGATIVE PRESS THAT WOULD CREATE?
IT'D NUKE OUR RATINGS FOR SURE!
THAT'S NOT MY LINE OF WORK.
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
BEFORE YOU DIG YOUR HEELS IN, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, LARA.
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS, SAMMY?
IT'S LIKE... A FABRIC THAT BECOMES METAL AFTER IT'S WOVEN TOGETHER. A THEORY AT BEST!
WE FOUND IT AT THEIR CAMPSITE, SEEMS LIKE UNIQUE GOODS TO ME
UNTIL NOW.
MY CURIOSITY IS PIQUED.
SHALL WE GO TO AFRICA?

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, YOU KNOW!
LARA CROFT IS NOT SOMEONE TO BE TRIFLED WITH!
WHY DON'T YOU TALK?
WHY WON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?
HOW DID YOU MAKE YOURSELF LOOK LIKE THAT OLD WOMAN?
BRRRING
NOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT! THAT'S MS. CROFT CALLING TO CHECK IN.
IF I DON'T ANSWER THE PHONE, SHE'LL HAVE THE POLICE HERE IN NO TIME.
MERCIFUL HEAVENS!

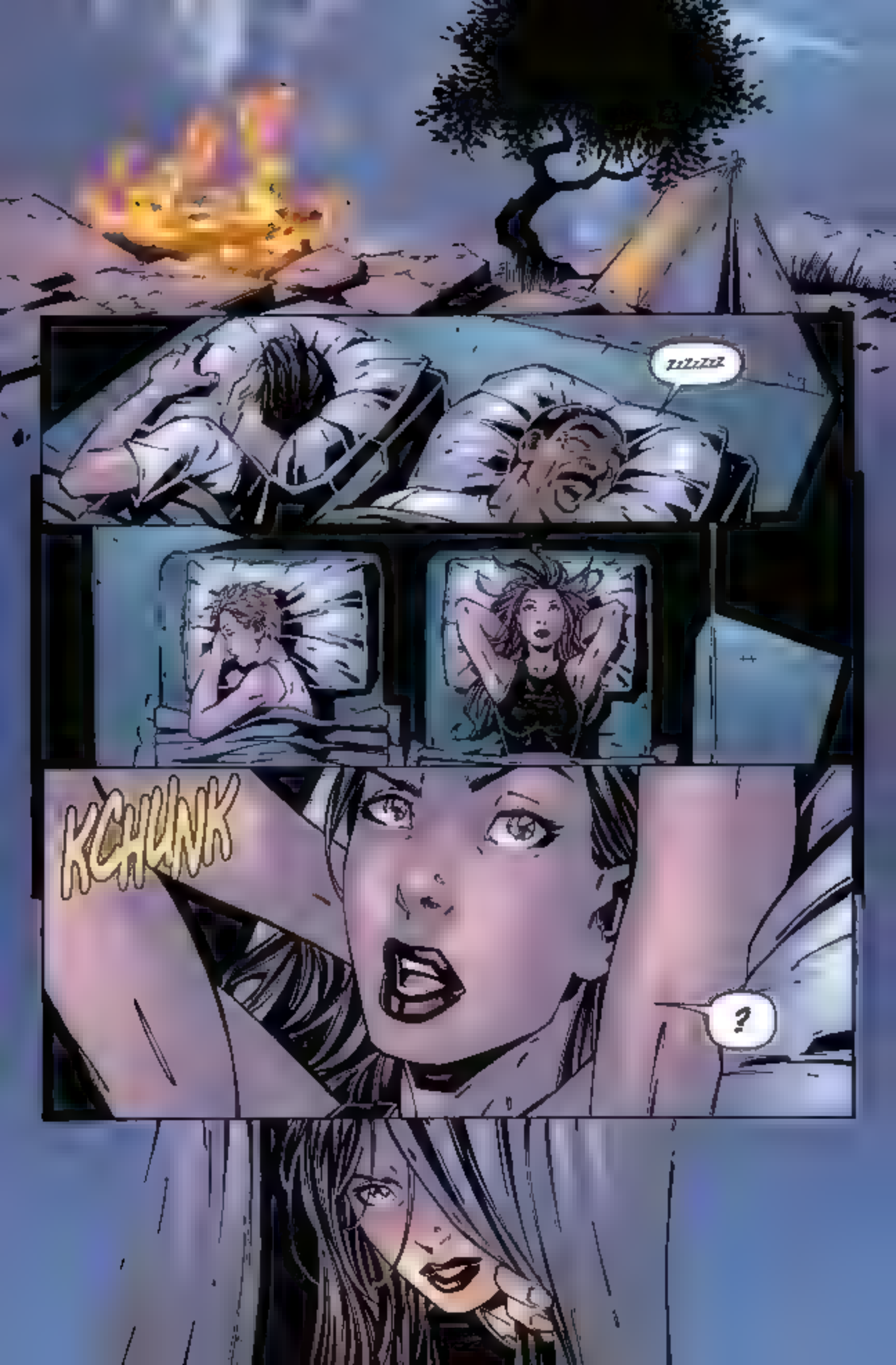
NO ONE... NO ONE CAN DO WHAT YOU JUST DID!
MRS. HOUNN? IT'S ME.
THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN PLANS. I'M HEADING TO AFRICA WITH SAMMY.
AFRICA? MERCIFUL HEAVENS, LARA! WHAT'S IN AFRICA?
I'M CHASING SOMETHING... DIFFERENT. SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T EVEN EXIST.
— UNTIL YOU RETURN —
— FROM AFRICA.
WELL, DO BE CAREFUL, LARA. I'LL KEEP EVERYTHING IN ORDER —

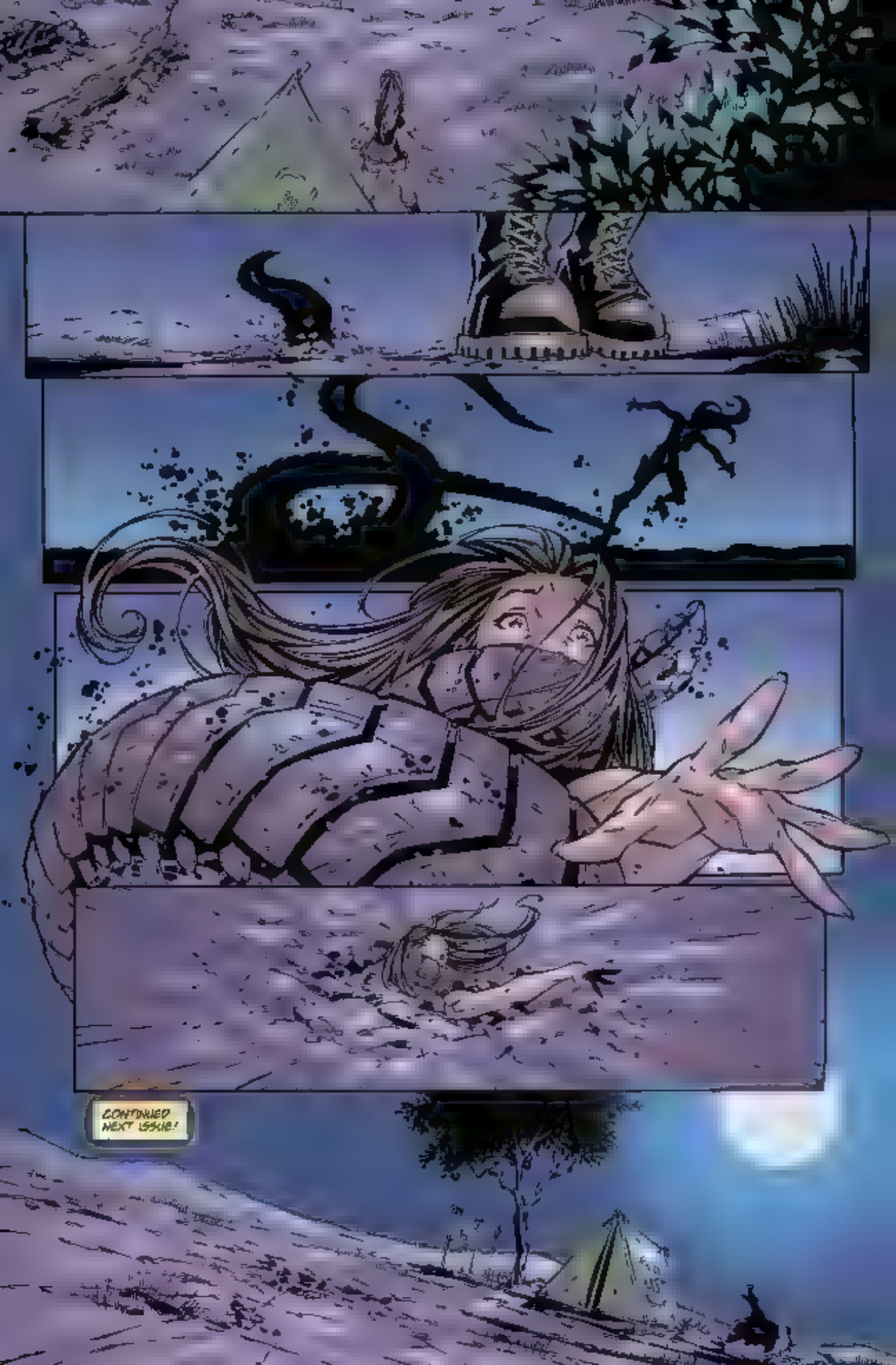
SAMMY, I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR YEARS.
WE'VE WORKED A NUMBER OF JOBS TOGETHER, AND I CONSIDER YOU A VERY GOOD FRIEND SO I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND ME ASKING
-- HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THESE LOONEY TUNES?
I DON'T MAKE ALL MY MONEY FLYING TREASURE HUNTERS, JARA.
FACT IS, MOST OF 'EM ARE LOSERS!
HOW SO?
IT MEANS THEY DON'T PAY! MOST OF THEM COULDN'T FIND THEIR BUTTS WITH TWO HANDS IN A DARK ROOM!
I MET STYLES BY FLYING STUNTS FOR ONE OF HIS FILMS.
A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, HE HIRED ME TO FLY HIS CREW HERE
NOT ONLY DOES JARA FIND WHAT SHE WANTS --
-- BUT SHE'S AS NICE AS THEY COME.
REMIND ME TO EMPLOY YOU MORE OFTEN ANYTHING TO KEEP YOU FROM THEM.

THIS IS THEIR LAST KNOWN LOCATION?
THAT IT IS. WE COMBED THE ENTIRE AREA AND HAVE FOUND NOTHING.
THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM, NO EVIDENCE THEY WALKED, DROVE OR FLEW AWAY!
WHAT ABOUT BLOOD? MAYBE HYENAS OR POACHERS FOUND THEM AND --
EWWWW! GRISLY!
I LOOKED LARA. DIDN'T SPOT A DROP
WHERE DID YOU FIND THE SHARD?
RIGHT ABOUT THERE.


HMM...
FIND SOMETHING, CROFT!
ONLY THAT THE GROUND. THIS SOIL IS LESS...FIRM THAN I EXPECTED.
NOT AS HARD BAKED AS IT SHOULD BE.
OH, GOD! WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH OUR PEOPLE?
IF ALL YOU CAN WORRY ABOUT IS THE DIRT, CAN WE AT LEAST GO BACK TO CIVILIZATION SO I CAN TAKE A SHOWER?
NO.
WE'RE STAYING HERE TONIGHT. ALL OF US.
THAT'S POSITIVELY INHUMANE!
SO IS KIDNAPPING.
WE STAY.

WHO DIED AND MADE HER C.E.O.?
COULDN'T WE HAVE AT LEAST BROUGHT A GENERATOR FOR SOME POWER?
MY IDEA OF A VACATION IS A FIVE-STAR HOTEL WITH ROOM SERVICE!
CAMPING IS FOR NEANDERTHALS!
RELAX, STYLES. ROUGHING IT WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU.
I WILL SAY THIS, THOUGH. CROFT INTRIGUES ME.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE COMMITTED TO NANCI.
GET YOUR MIND OUT OF THE GUTTER, STYLES! I'M INTERESTED IN HER AS A PRODUCT!
A SHOW!
THOUGH I DO LOOK FORWARD TO SNEAKING A LOOK AT HER IN THE TENT, TONIGHT
A TV SHOW WITH HER IN IT? AS A TREASURE HUNTER?
WITH CHANGES, OF COURSE. I MEAN, NO ONE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HER THIS WAY SHE IS.
MAYBE IF A MAN PLAYED THE ROLE.
WITH A DWARF AS A SIDEKICK.


ZzZzZzZ
KCHUNK
?


CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

PIECES OF ZERO PART 2

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL AND JASON GORDER

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH AND STEVE FIRCHOW

LETTERS
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AND DENNIS HEISLER

COVER PENCILS
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COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

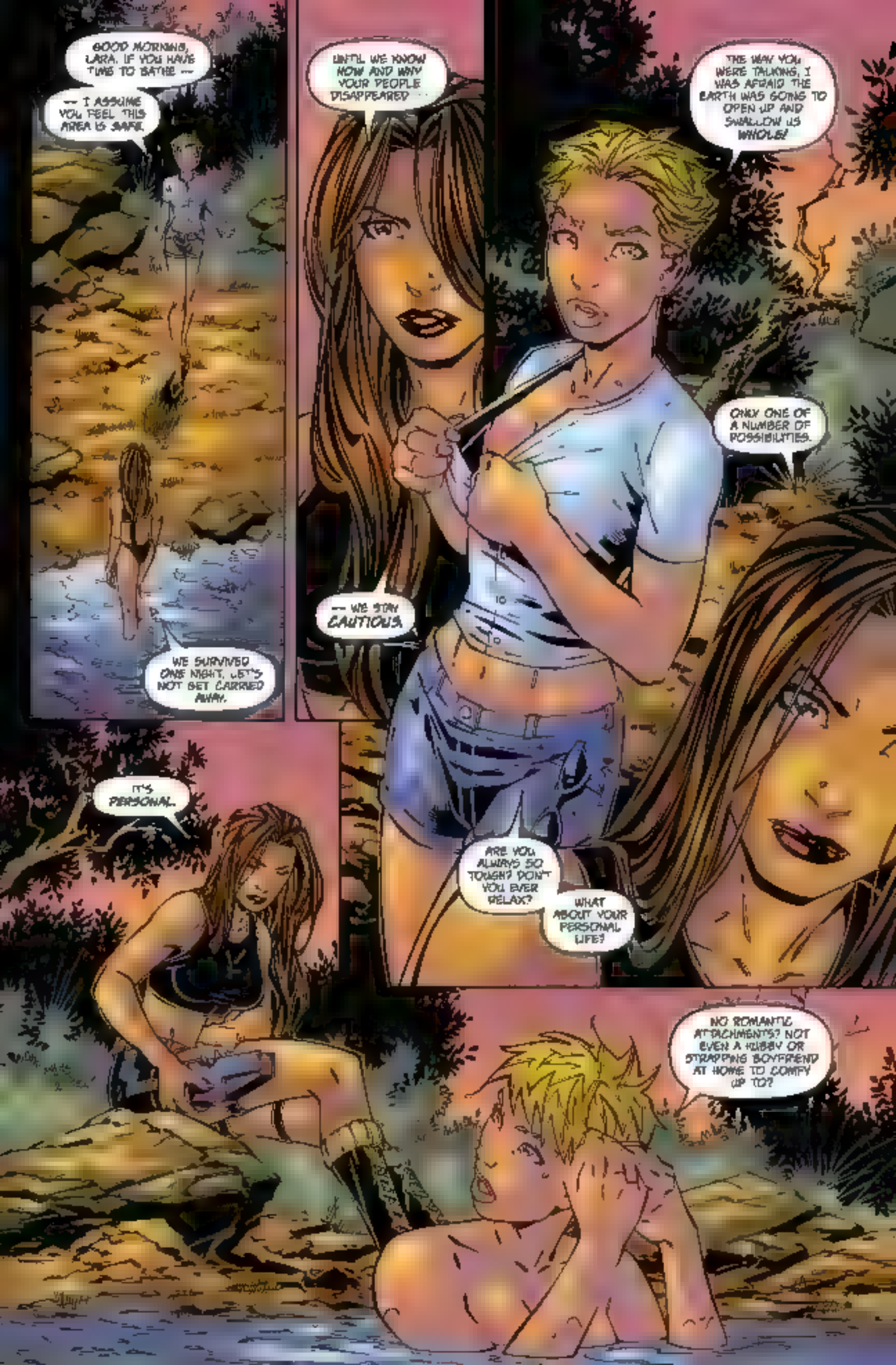
COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

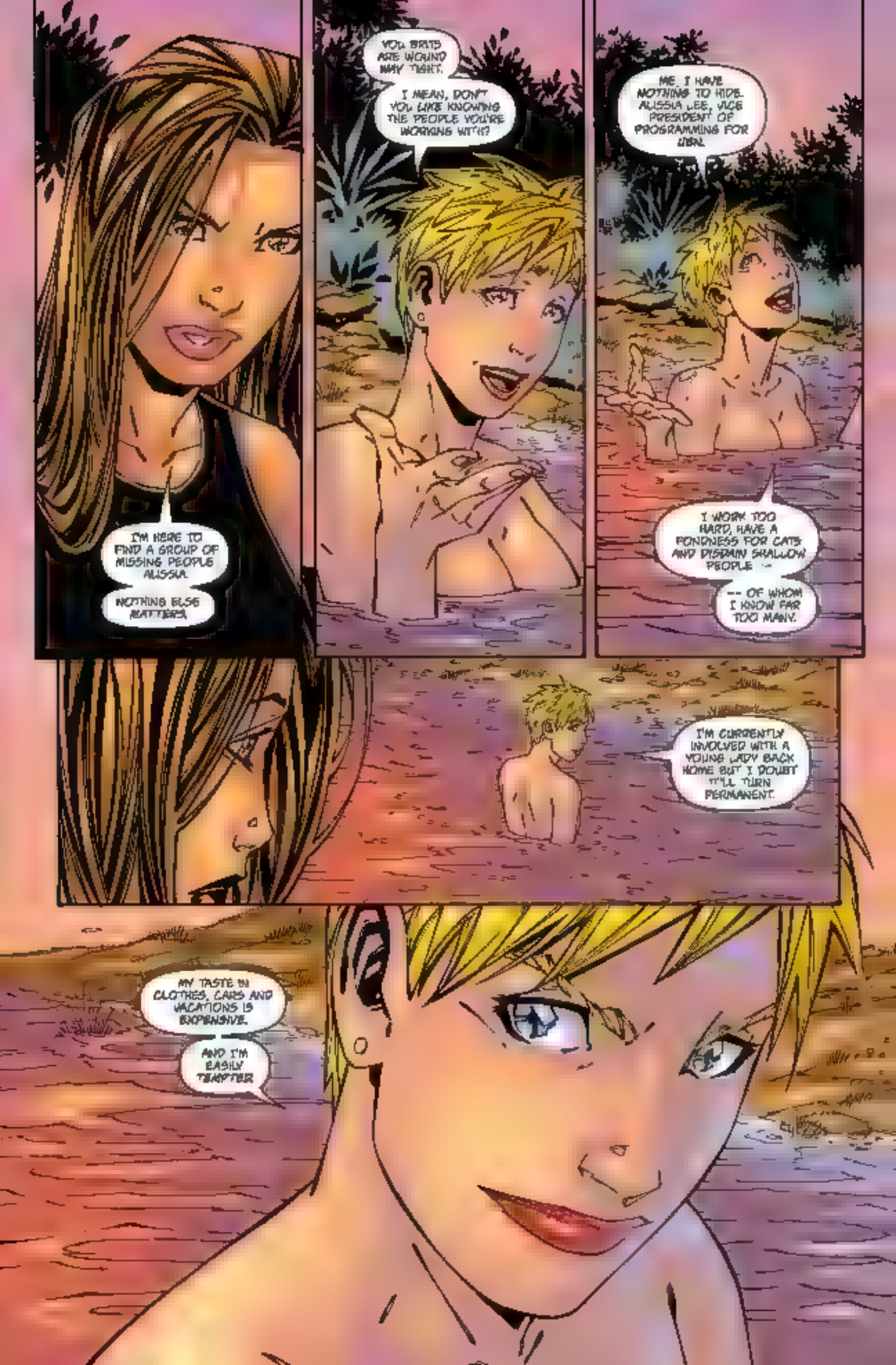
ENGLAND. THE ESTATE OF LARA CROFT.
TAP CLICK TAP CLICK
WRACK WRACK WRACK
MS. CROFT?

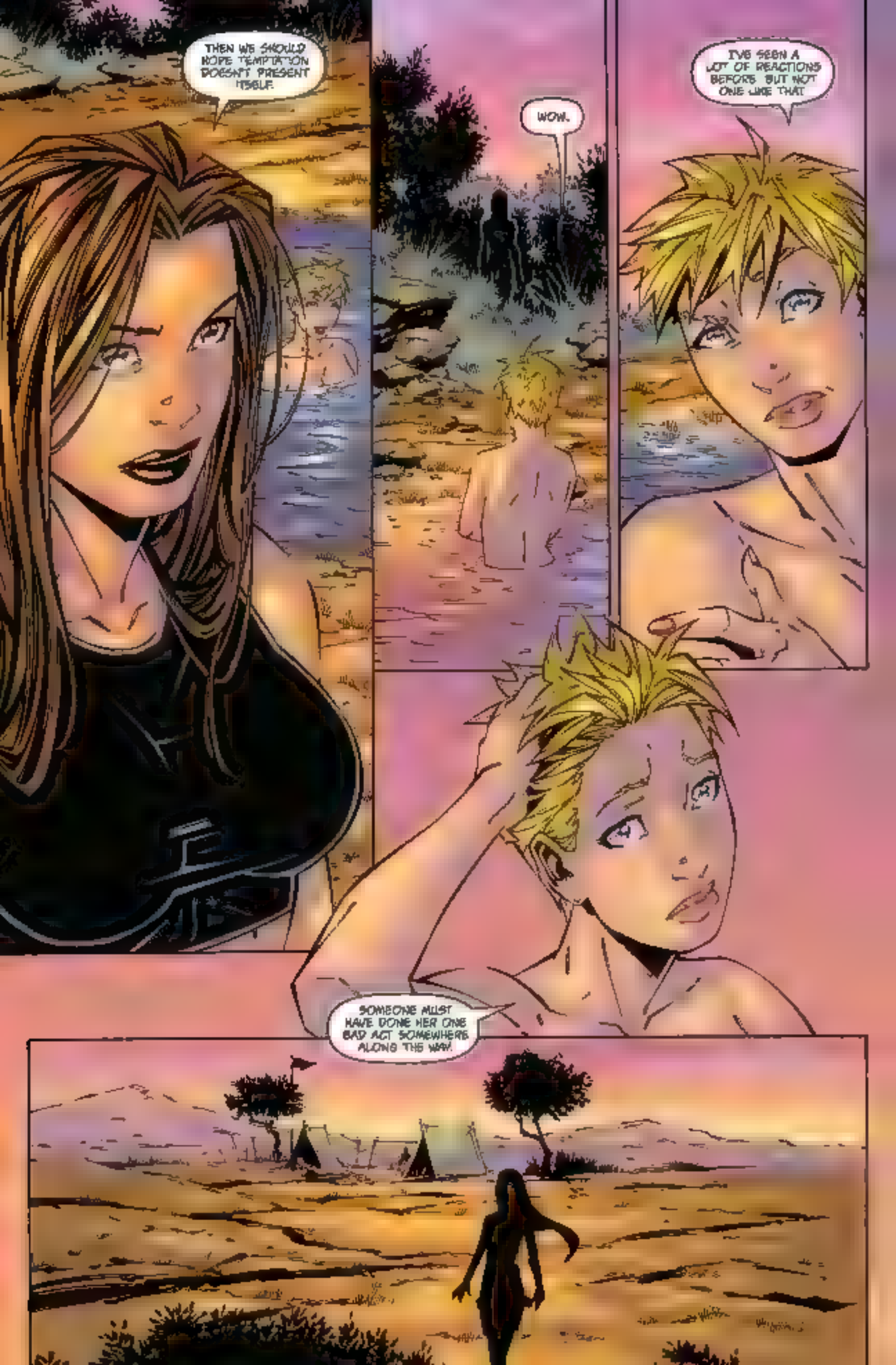
MS. CROFT?
ARE YOU HOME?
I APOLOGIZE FOR LETTING MYSELF IN BUT I HAVE QUESTIONS ONLY YOU CAN ANSWER.
I'M TOO LATE.
THE AVATAR HAS ALREADY BEEN HERE
MMMPH!
THANK GOODNESS! PLEASE UNTIE ME!
SADLY, I MUSTN'T.

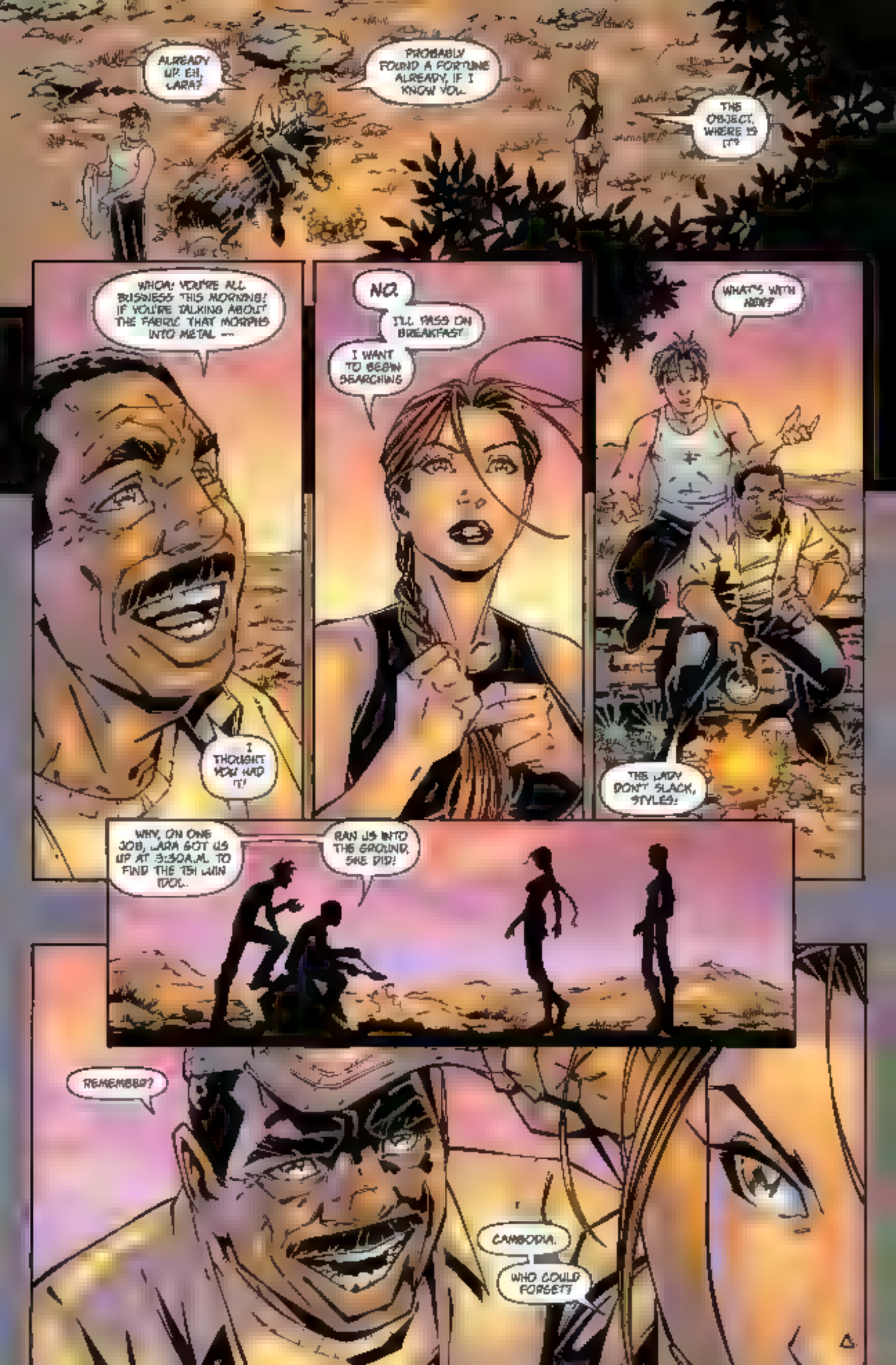
YOU HAVE SEEN THINGS THAT COULD COMPROMISE MORE THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE.
REST ASSURED, MADAM, THAT I SHALL PHONE THE AUTHORITIES AND HAVE YOU FREED FROM THIS UNFORTUNATE SITUATION WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
TRUST ME ON THAT, FOR IF NOTHING ELSE
-- SAMUEL GUILL IS A MAN OF HIS WORD.
Pieces of
Part II of IV

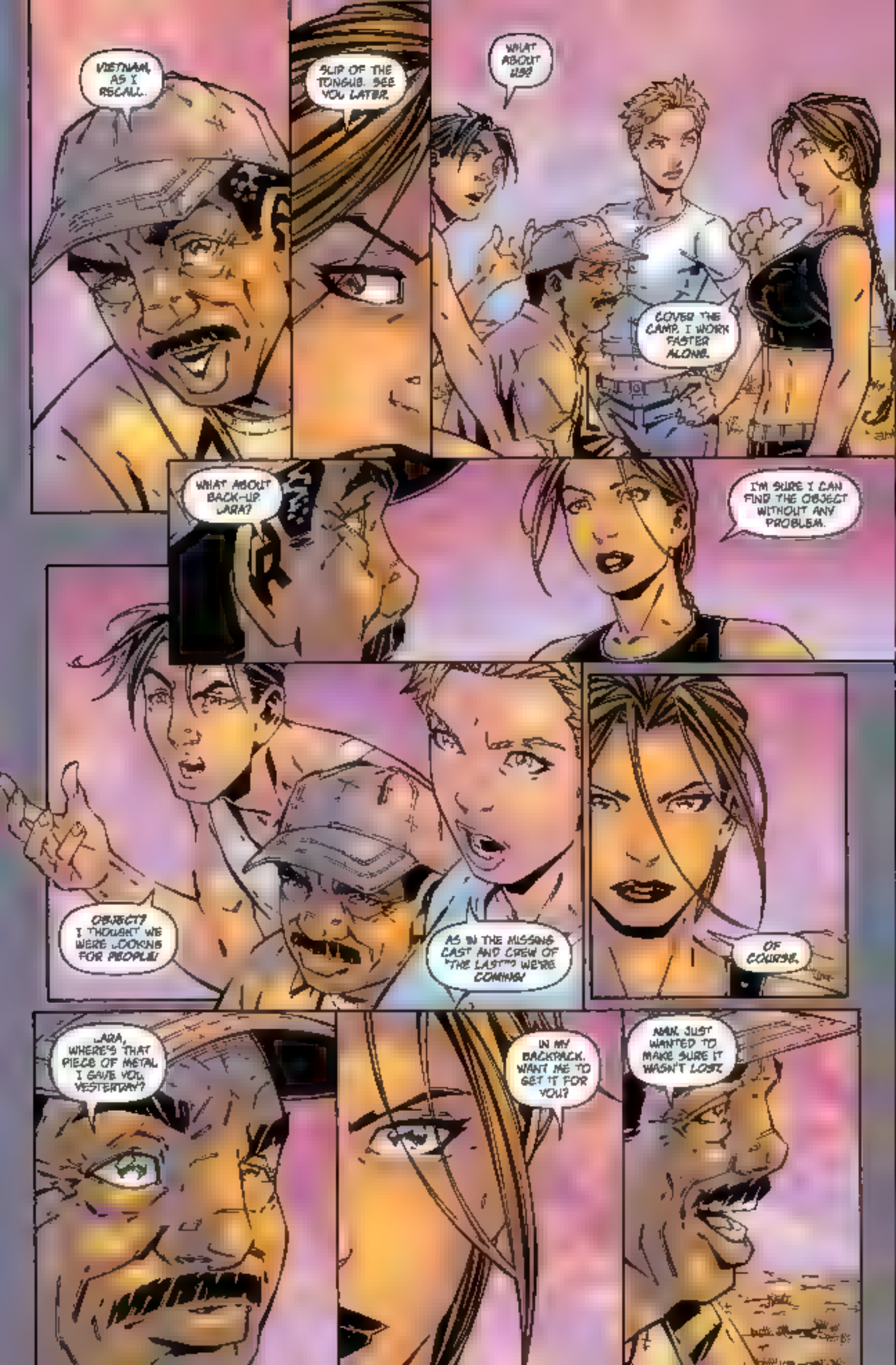
KENYA.
RISE AND SHINE, FOLKS!
AIN'T NO ONE WHO LIKES COLD EGGS FOR BREAKFAST
— AN' THAT'S ALL YOU'LL GET IF YOU AREN'T OUT HERE SOON!
OHH...I DON'T KNOW HOW ANYONE MANAGES A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP ON THE GROUND
HURRY YERSELF UP, STYLES: AND GET THE LADIES OUTTA THEIR TENT WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!
DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD, SAMMY.
NO TELLING WHAT AUSSIA'S UP TO.
WHOA.


GOOD MORNING, LARA. IF YOU HAVE TIME TO BATHE --
-- I ASSUME YOU FEEL THIS AREA IS SAFE.
WE SURVIVED ONE NIGHT. LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY.
UNTIL WE KNOW HOW AND WHY YOUR PEOPLE DISAPPEARED...
-- WE STAY CAUTIOUS.
THE WAY YOU WERE TALKING, I WAS AFRAID THE EARTH WAS GOING TO OPEN UP AND SWALLOW US WHOLE!
ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES.
IT'S PERSONAL.
ARE YOU ALWAYS SO TOUGH? DON'T YOU EVER RELAX?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?
NO ROMANTIC ATTACHMENTS? NOT EVEN A HUBBY OR STRAPPING BOYFRIEND AT HOME TO COMFY UP TO?

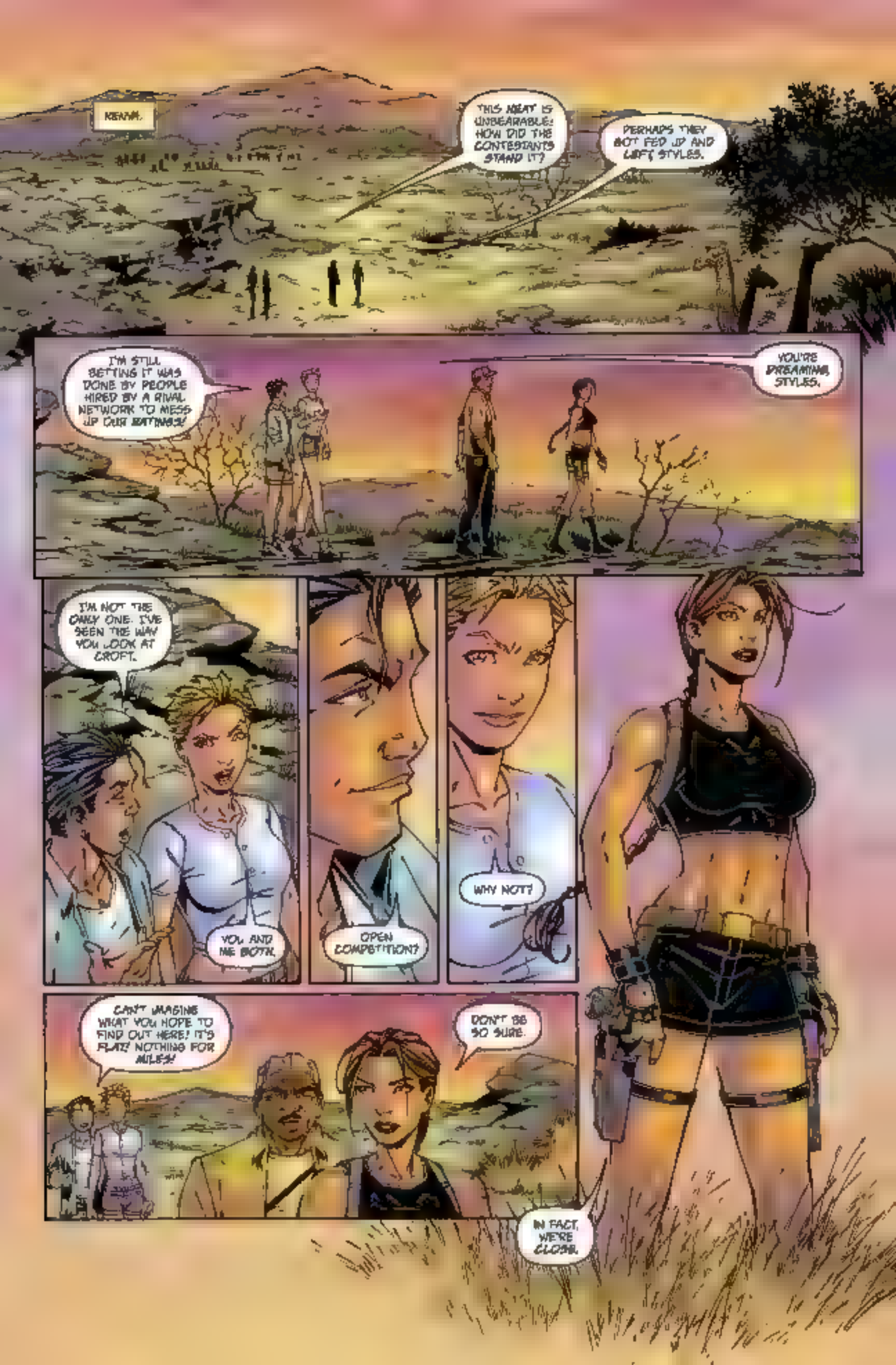

I'M HERE TO FIND A GROUP OF MISSING PEOPLE ALISSA.
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.
YOU BRITS ARE WOUND WAY TIGHT.
I MEAN, DON'T YOU LIKE KNOWING THE PEOPLE YOU'RE WORKING WITH?
ME, I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE. ALISSA LEE, VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING FOR UBN.
I WORK TOO HARD, HAVE A FONDNESS FOR CATS AND DISDAIN SHALLOW PEOPLE --
-- OF WHOM I KNOW FAR TOO MANY.
I'M CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH A YOUNG LADY BACK HOME BUT I DOUBT IT'LL TURN PERMANENT.
MY TASTE IN CLOTHES, CARS AND VACATIONS IS EXPENSIVE.
AND I'M EASILY TEMPTED.

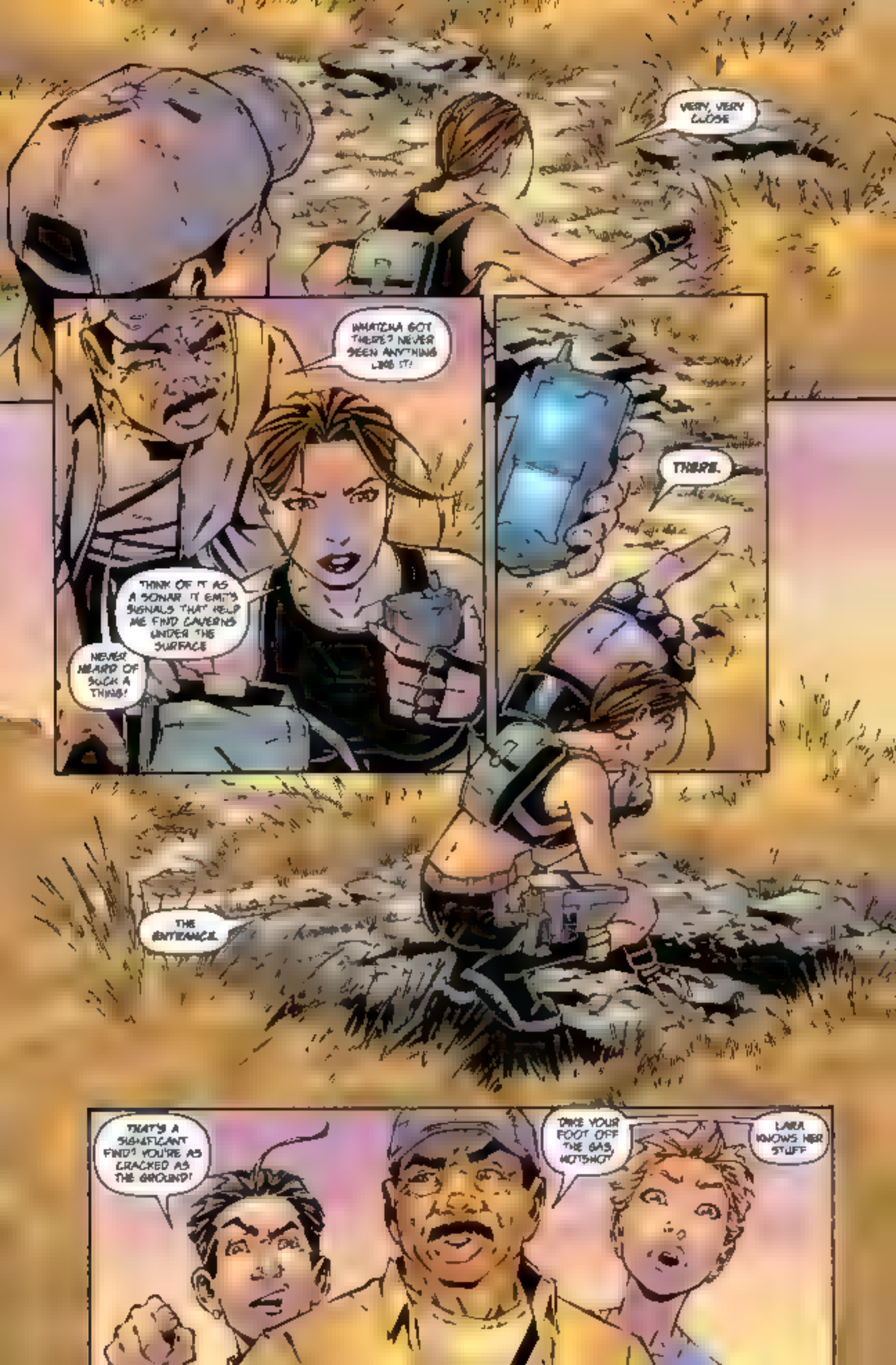

THEN WE SHOULD HOPE TEMPTATION DOESN'T PRESENT ITSELF.
WOW.
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF REACTIONS BEFORE BUT NOT ONE LIKE THAT.
SOMEONE MUST HAVE DONE HER ONE BAD ACT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY.

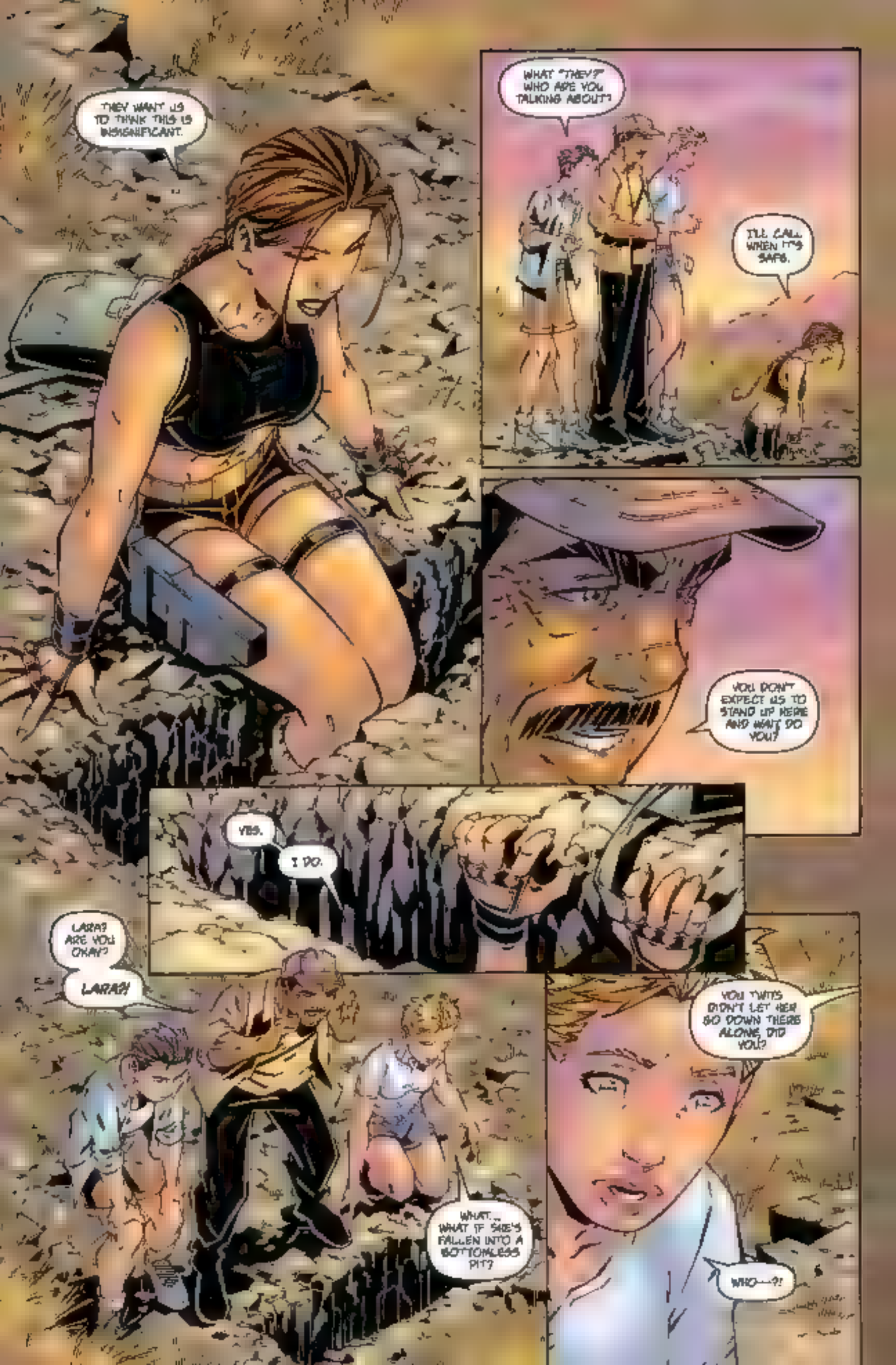

ALREADY UP, EH, LARA?
PROBABLY FOUND A FORTUNE ALREADY, IF I KNOW YOU.
THE OBJECT. WHERE IS IT?
WHOA! YOU'RE ALL BUSINESS THIS MORNING! IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FABRIC THAT MORPHS INTO METAL —
I THOUGHT YOU HAD IT!
NO.
I'LL PASS ON BREAKFAST.
I WANT TO BEGIN SEARCHING.
WHAT'S WITH HER?
THIS LADY DON'T SLACK, STYLES!
WHY, ON ONE JOB, LARA GOT US UP AT 3:30 A.M. TO FIND THE 7TH LUIN IDOL.
RAN US INTO THE GROUND, SHE DID!
REMEMBER?
CAMBODIA.
WHO COULD FORGET?

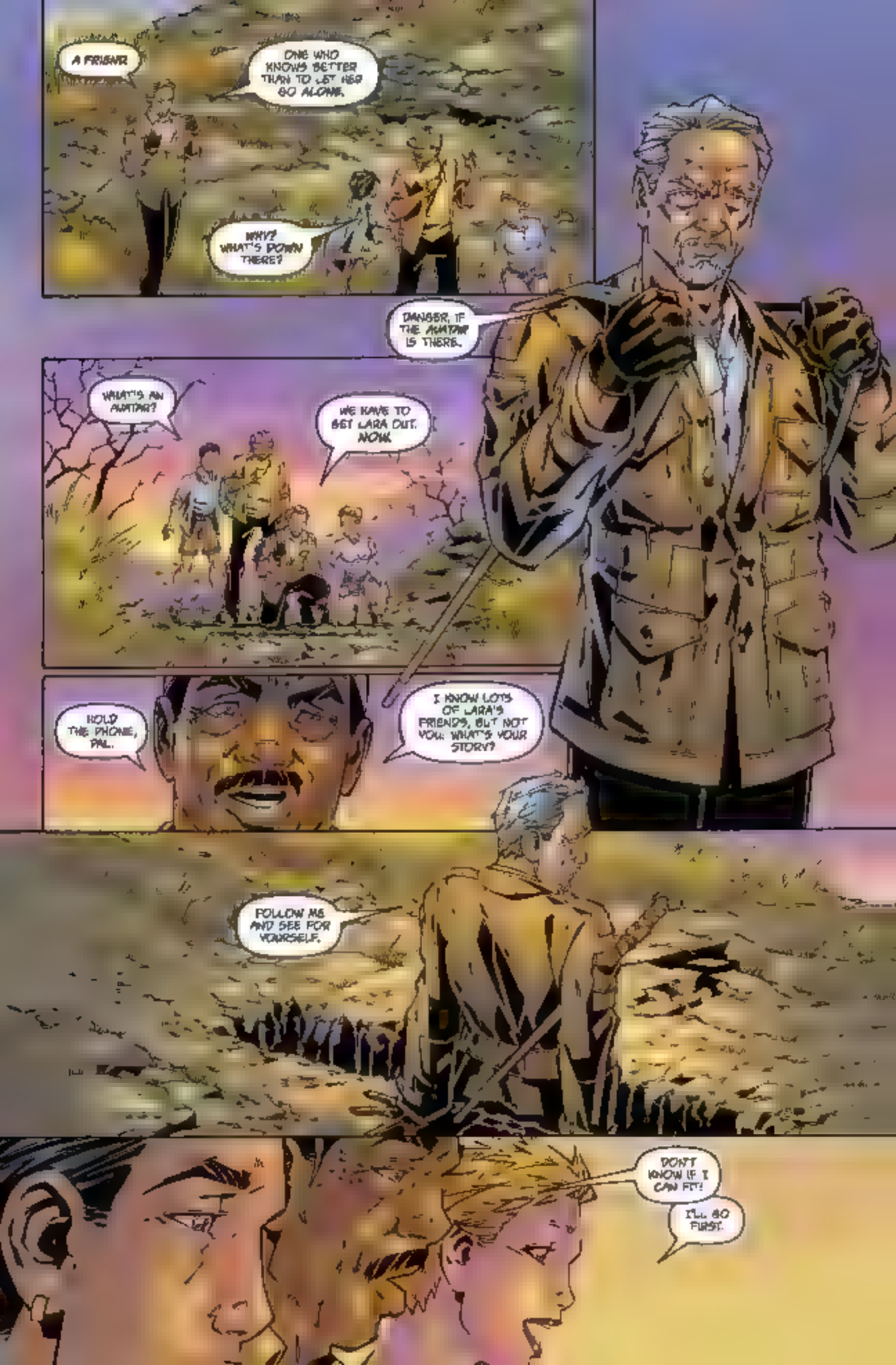

VIETNAM, AS I RECALL.
SLIP OF THE TONGUE. SEE YOU LATER.
WHAT ABOUT US?
COVER THE CAMP. I WORK FASTER ALONE.
WHAT ABOUT BACK-UP, LARA?
I'M SURE I CAN FIND THE OBJECT WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM.
OBJECT? I THOUGHT WE WERE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE!
AS IN THE MISSING CAST AND CREW OF "THE LAST"? WE'RE COMING!
OF COURSE.
LARA, WHERE'S THAT PIECE OF METAL I GAVE YOU YESTERDAY?
IN MY BACKPACK. WANT ME TO GET IT FOR YOU?
NAH. JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT WASN'T LOST.

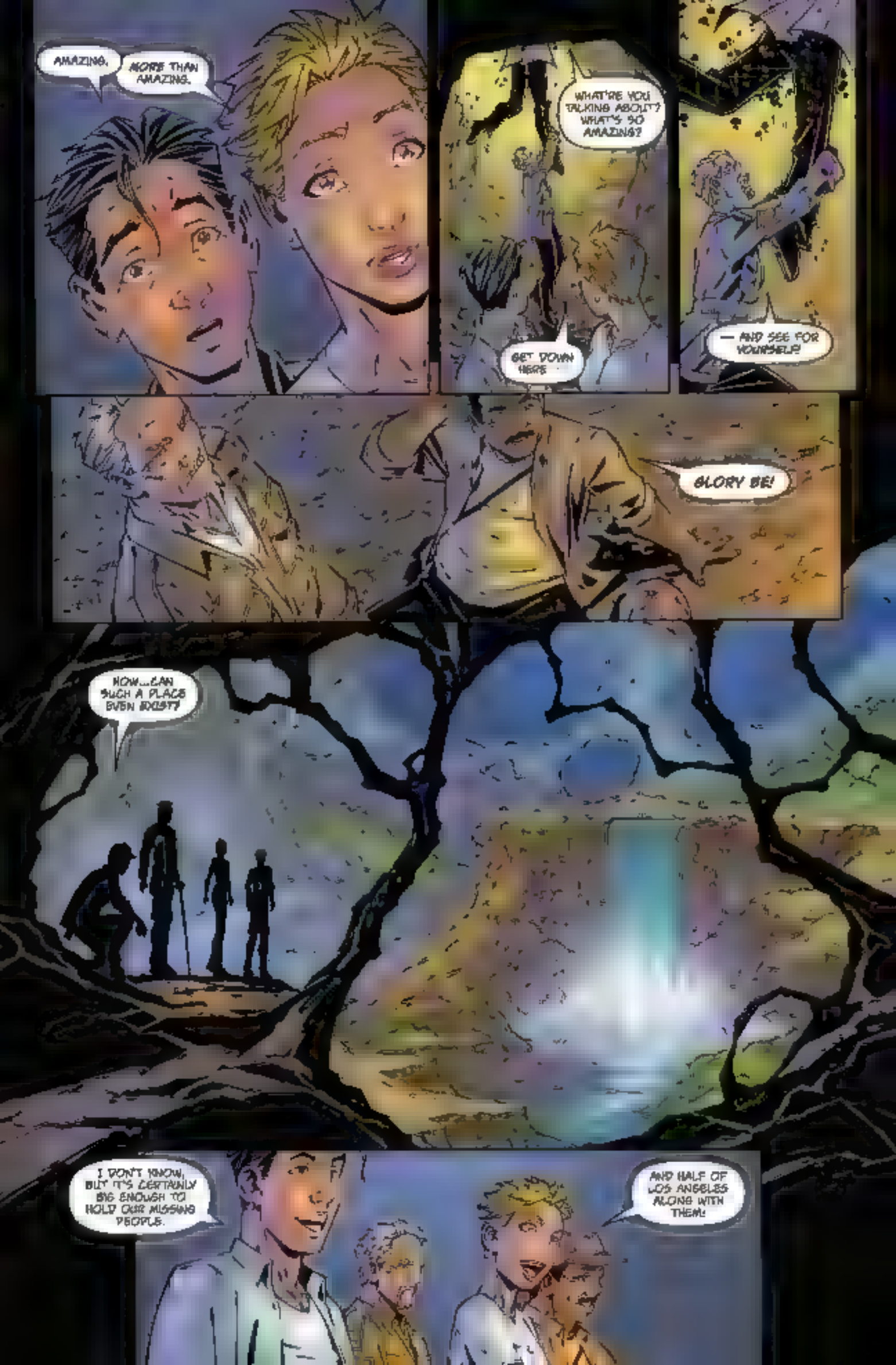
ENGLAND?
ONE OR TWO MORE PUSHES...
FINALLY!
SNAP!
THE RADIO!
I HAVE TO WARN LARA --
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!


KENYA.
THIS HEAT IS UNBEARABLE! HOW DID THE CONTESTANTS STAND IT?
PERHAPS THEY GOT FED UP AND LEFT, STYLES.
I'M STILL BETTING IT WAS DONE BY PEOPLE HIRED BY A RIVAL NETWORK TO MESS UP OUR RATINGS!
YOU'RE DREAMING, STYLES.
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE. I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT CROFT.
YOU AND ME BOTH.
OPEN COMPETITION?
WHY NOT?
CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT YOU HOPE TO FIND OUT HERE! IT'S FLAT! NOTHING FOR MILES!
DON'T BE SO SURE.
IN FACT, WE'RE CLOSE.


VERY, VERY LOOSE
WHATCHA GOT THERE? NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
THERE.
THINK OF IT AS A SONAR. IT EMITS SIGNALS THAT HELP ME FIND CAVERNS UNDER THE SURFACE
NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING!
THE ENTRANCE.
THAT'S A SIGNIFICANT FIND! YOU'RE AS CRACKED AS THE GROUND!
TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE GAS, HOTSHOT
LARA KNOWS HER STUFF


THEY WANT US TO THINK THIS IS INSIGNIFICANT.
WHAT "THEY?" WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'LL CALL WHEN IT'S SAFE.
YOU DON'T EXPECT US TO STAND UP HERE AND WAIT DO YOU?
YES.
I DO.
LARA? ARE YOU OKAY?
LARA!
YOU TWITS DIDN'T LET HER GO DOWN THERE ALONE, DID YOU?
WHAT... WHAT IF SHE'S FALLEN INTO A BOTTOMLESS PIT?
WHO—?!

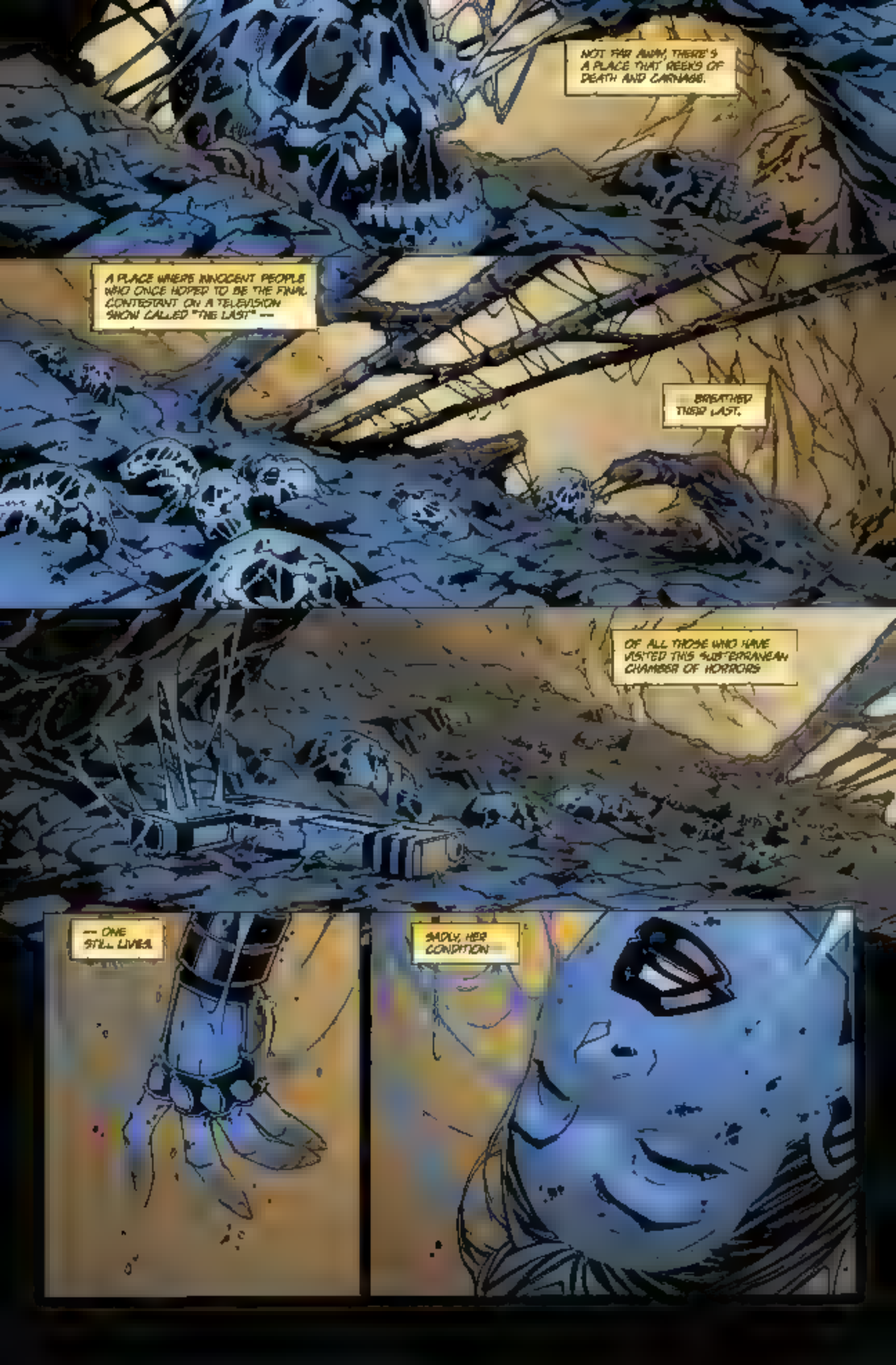

A FRIEND.
ONE WHO KNOWS BETTER THAN TO LET HER GO ALONE.
WHY? WHAT'S DOWN THERE?
DANGER, IF THE AVATAR IS THERE.
WHAT'S AN AVATAR?
WE HAVE TO GET LARA OUT. NOW.
HOLD THE PHONE, PAL.
I KNOW LOTS OF LARA'S FRIENDS, BUT NOT YOU. WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
FOLLOW ME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.
DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FIT!
I'LL GO FIRST.


AMAZING.
MORE THAN AMAZING.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT'S SO AMAZING?
GET DOWN HERE
— AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!
GLORY BE!
HOW...CAN SUCH A PLACE EVEN EXIST?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT'S CERTAINLY BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD OUR MISSING PEOPLE.
AND HALF OF LOS ANGELES ALONG WITH THEM!

BE ALERT
THERE'S A PRESENCE HERE WHO WOULD KILL US WITHOUT A SECOND'S THOUGHT.
SAMMY! LET ME TALK TO LARA!
MRS. HOWARD? WHAT'S UP? YOU SOUND WORRIED!
SAMMY, I HAVE TO TALK TO LARA NOW!
SHE'S NOT HERE AND THE RECEPTION HERE STINKS! WHAT'S WRONG?
THERE—ZZZKKT A MAN WITH A BEARD—ZZZKKKNT— TIED ME UP!
TALL AND GRAY?
YES, BUT THAT'S NOT WHO— ZZKKKTTTT
KZZZZZ
I KNOW IT! YOU'RE THE BAD NEWS HERE!

TELL ME WHERE LARA IS BEFORE I
IDIOT.
I'M HERE TO HELP
BLAMM
SKRUNCH
WHUGH!
L....ARA?
HE'S THE AVATAR.
GET AWAY FROM HIM.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
SEE? I KNEW HE WAS BAD NEWS!
GOOD THING MRS. HOWAN WARNED US ABOUT HIM OR HE MIGHTA KILLED US ALL BY NOW!
YES, FORTUNATELY, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT
THE AVATAR HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.


NOT FAR AWAY, THERE'S A PLACE THAT REEKS OF DEATH AND CARNAGE.
A PLACE WHERE INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO ONCE HOPED TO BE THE FINAL CONTESTANT ON A TELEVISION SHOW CALLED "THE LAST" —
BREATHED THEIR LAST.
OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE VISITED THIS SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER OF HORRORS
— ONE STILL LIVES.
SADLY, HER CONDITION

— WILL SOON CHANGE.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

AH!

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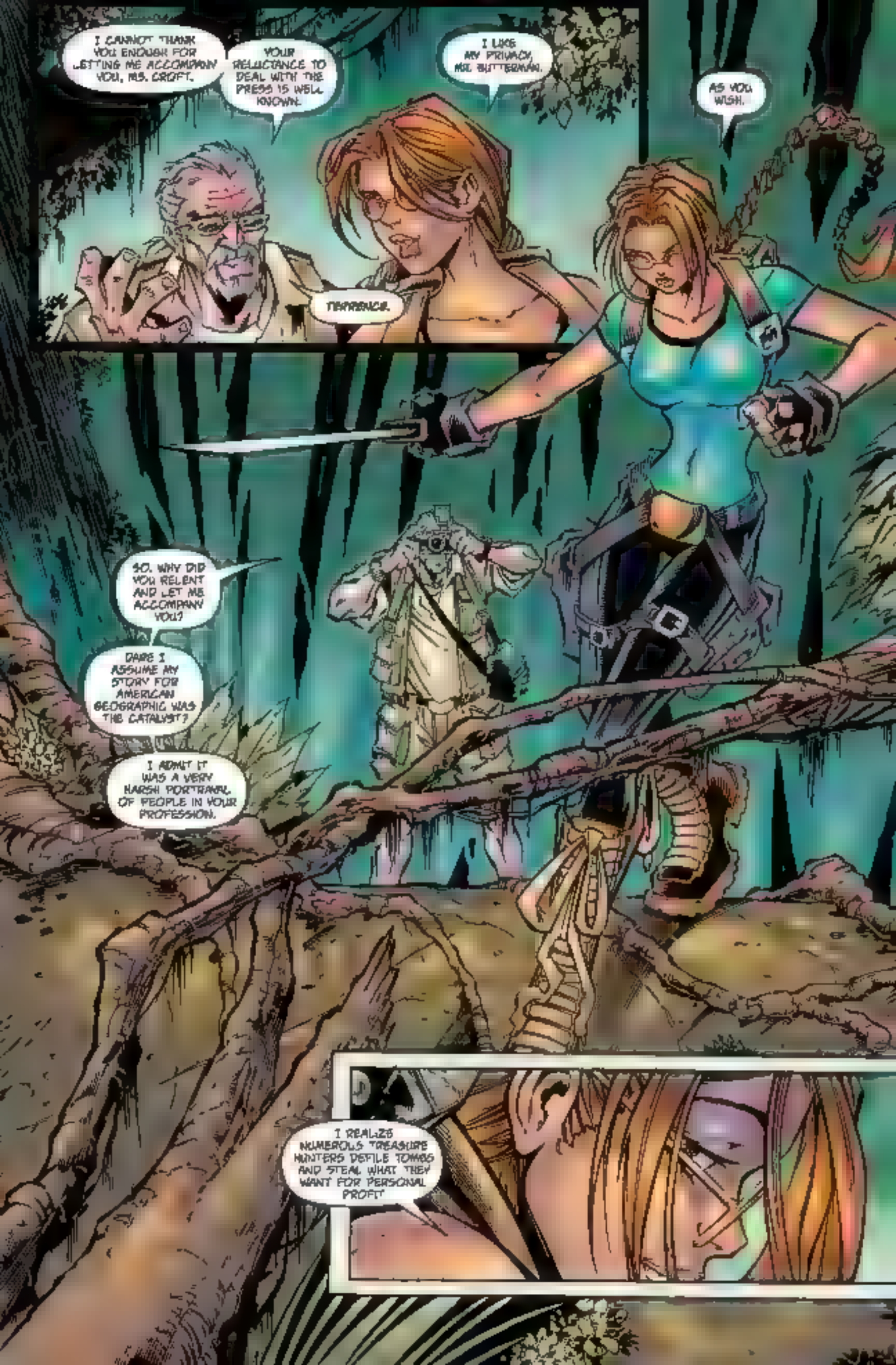
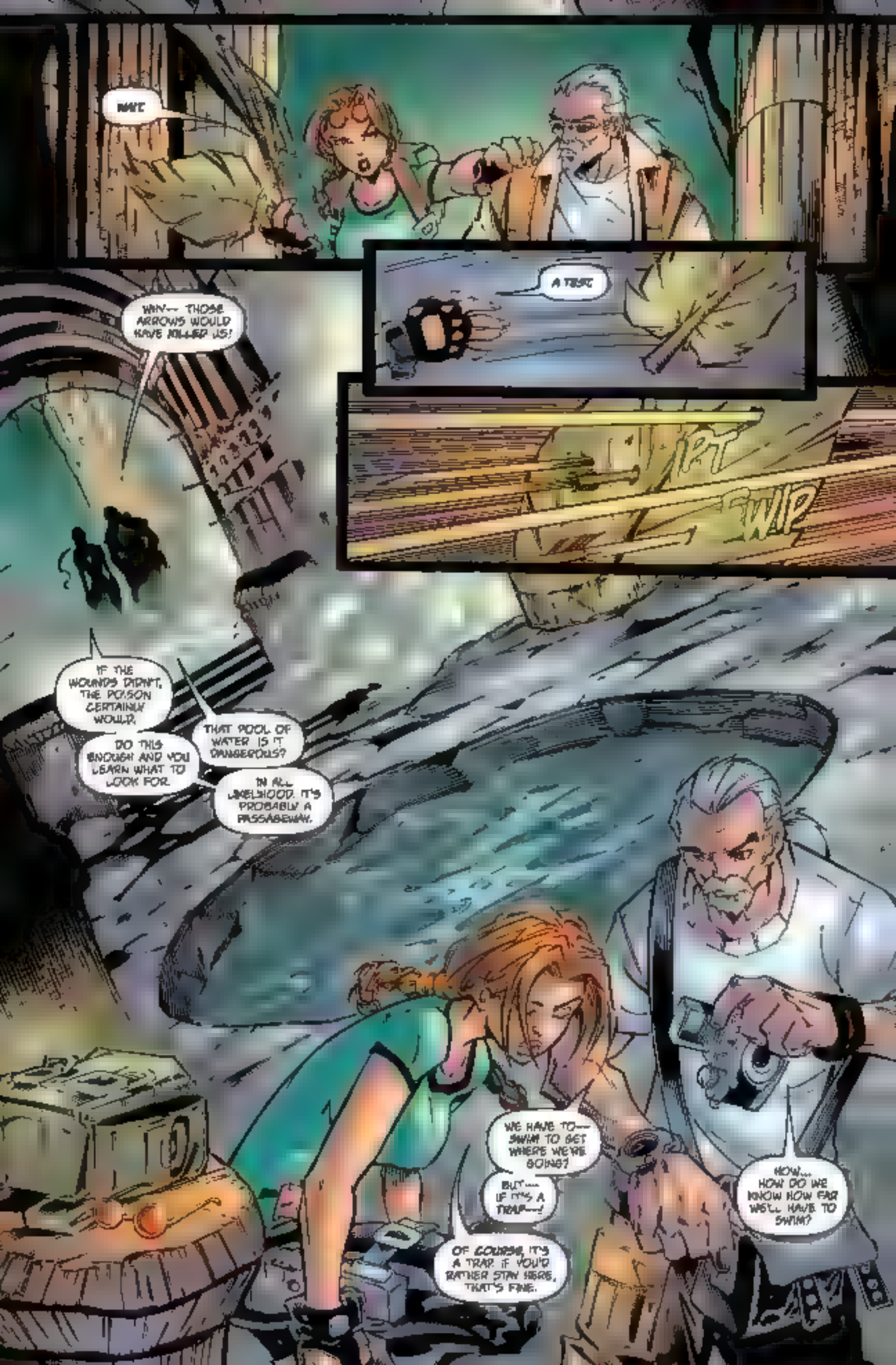
COVER ART
ADAM HUGHES

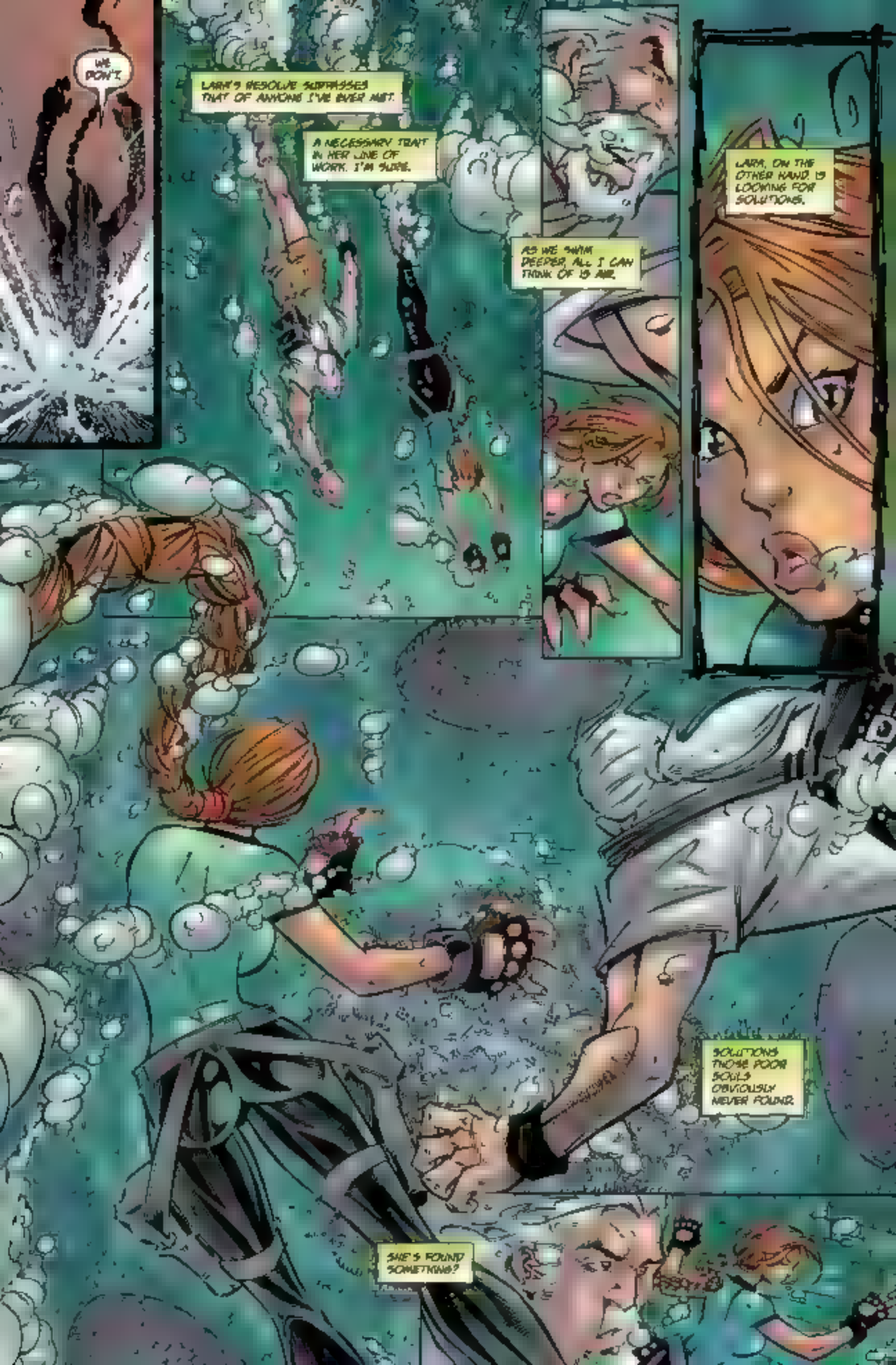
Tomb Raider
CAT
BARELY, PERHAPS NEVER, HAVE I MET A WOMAN BOTH SO PERPLEXING AND INTRIGUING.
WITH EVERY PASSING MOMENT, LARA CROFT FRUSTRATES AND IMPRESSES ME MORE.
IN LIGHT OF WHAT'S TO COME, I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER HOW THIS DAY WILL END.

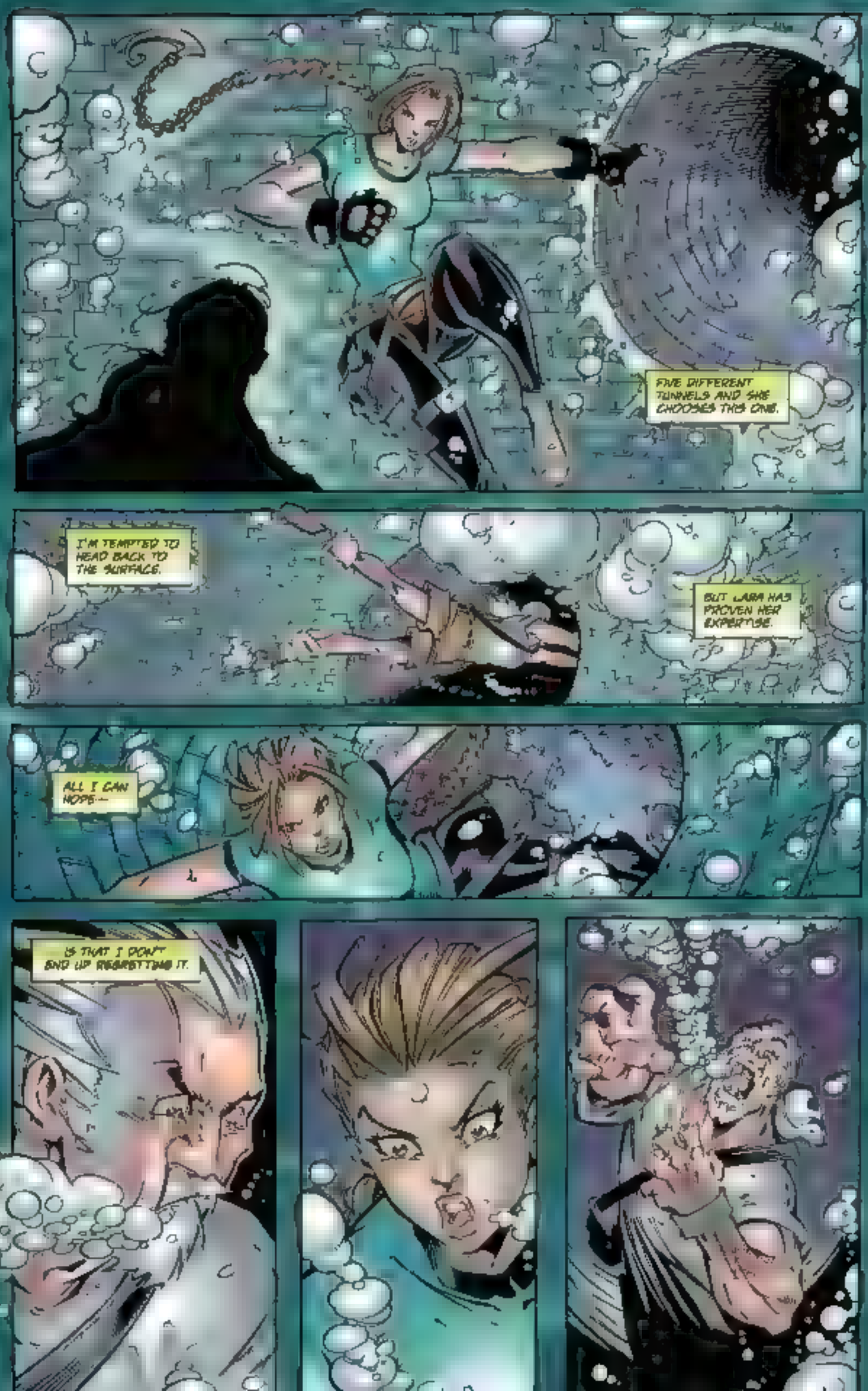

I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR LETTING ME ACCOMPANY YOU, MS. CROFT.
YOUR RELUCTANCE TO DEAL WITH THE PRESS IS WELL KNOWN.
I LIKE MY PRIVACY, MR. BUTTERMAN.
AS YOU WISH.
TERRENCE.
SO. WHY DID YOU RELENT AND LET ME ACCOMPANY YOU?
DARE I ASSUME MY STORY FOR AMERICAN GEOGRAPHIC WAS THE CATALYST?
I ADMIT IT WAS A VERY HARSH PORTRAYAL OF PEOPLE IN YOUR PROFESSION.
I REALIZE NUMEROUS TREASURE HUNTERS DEFILE TOMBS AND STEAL WHAT THEY WANT FOR PERSONAL PROFIT

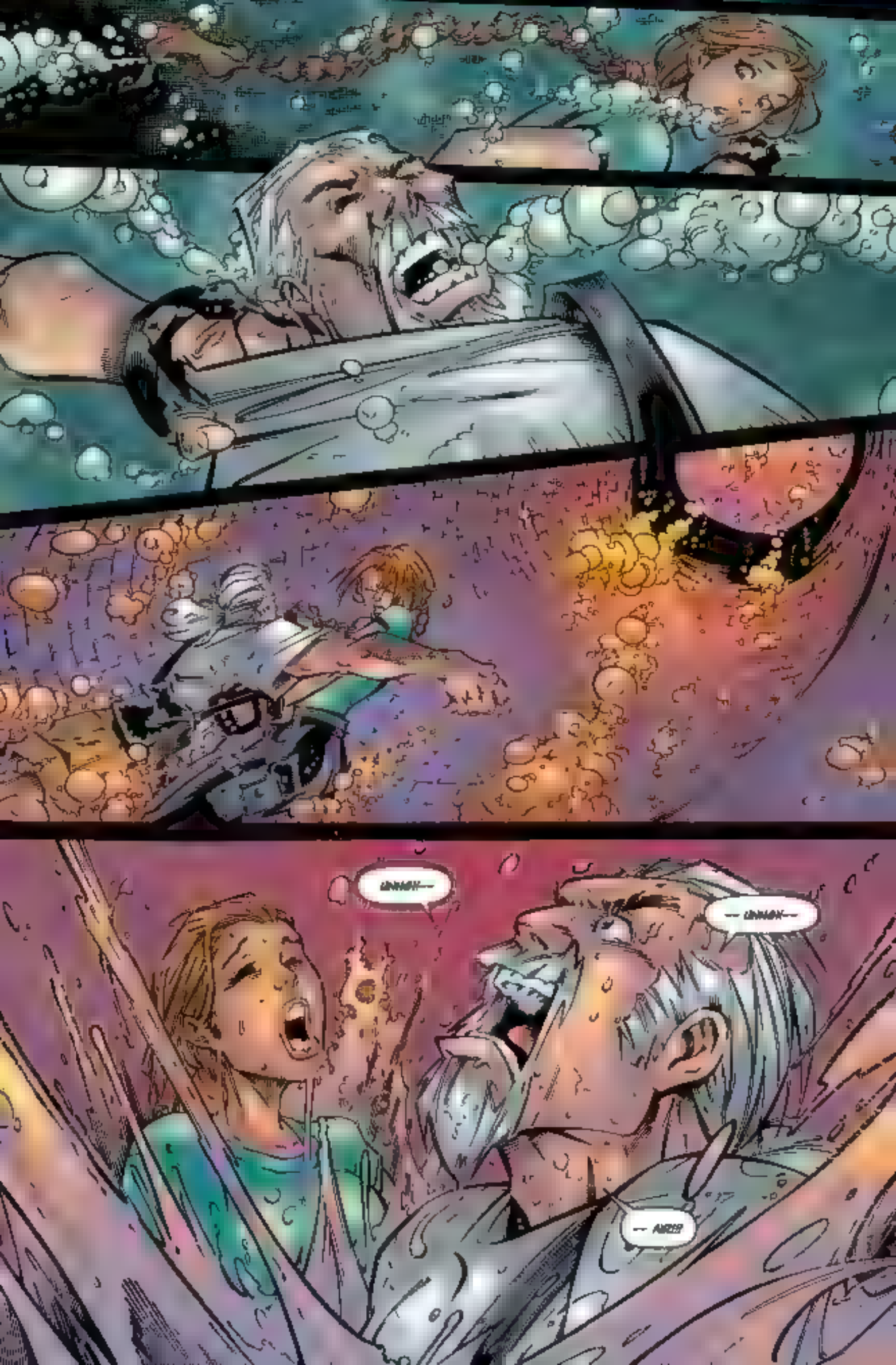
I AM NOT ONE OF THEM.
I AM ALREADY WEALTHY.
I RARELY KEEP WHAT I TAKE
MUCH OF IT GOES TO MUSEUMS.
OR A RIGHTFUL OWNER OR DESCENDENT
OCCASIONALLY, I WILL KEEP SOMETHING.
THAT DECISION IS NEVER BASED ON MONETARY VALUE.
MY WORD! I-- HAD NO IDEA THAT WAS HERE.
AND I'VE BEEN TO THIS COUNTRY NUMEROUS TIMES!
HOW--?!
SIMPLE, REALLY.
I'M THE BEST.

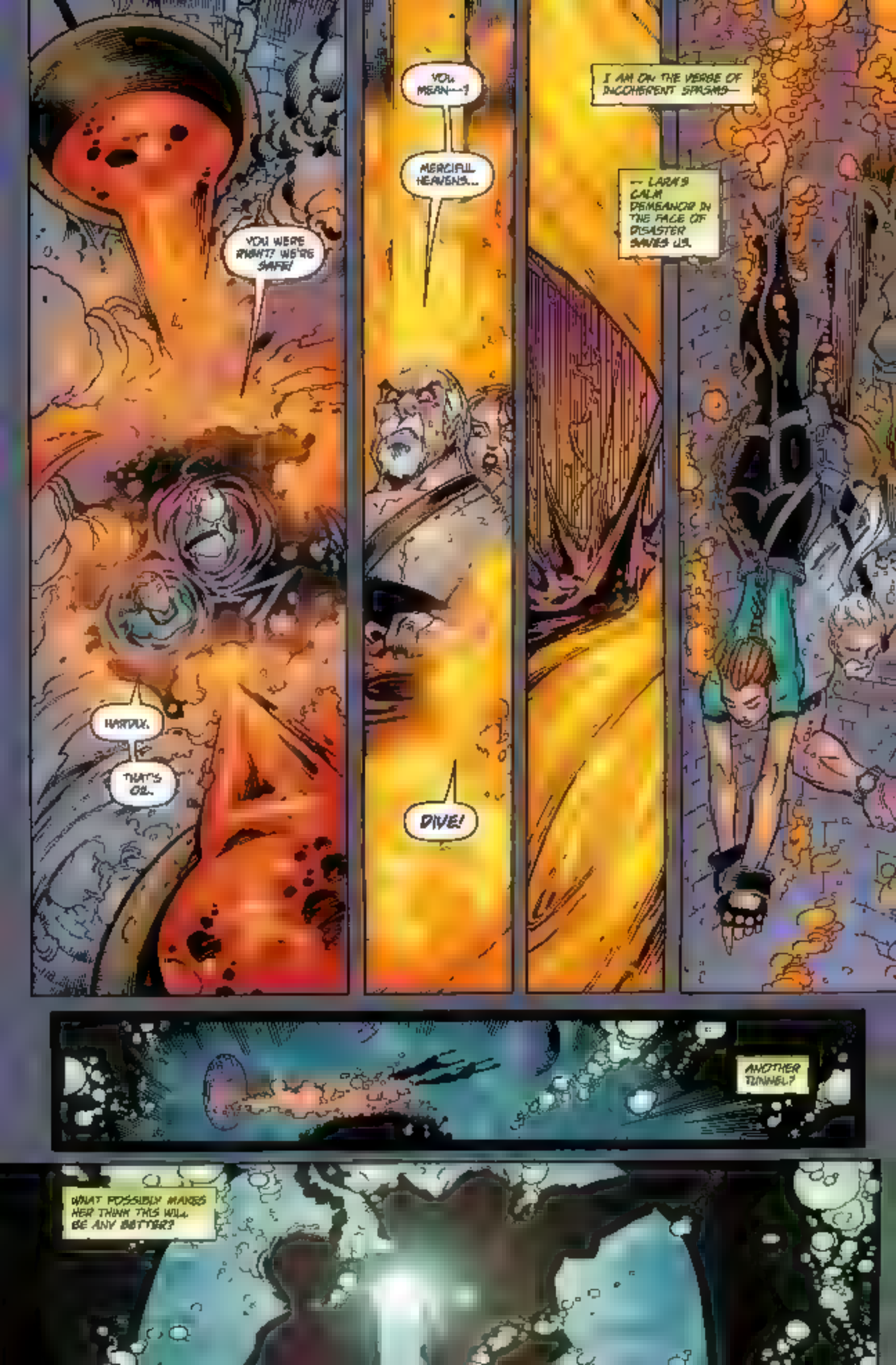
QUITE FORMIDABLE. WE MIGHT WELL REQUIRE A BULLDOZER TO GET INSIDE.
A QUESTION, MR. BUTTERMAN.
TERRENCE.
TERRENCE.
SO THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.
YOU CAN ACTUALLY READ THOSE CARVINGS?
ENOUGH TO OPEN IT, YES.
GETTING INSIDE IS EASY.
THEY DIDN'T HAVE BULLDOZERS WHEN THEY BUILT IT, DID THEY?
WELL, NO...
IT'S SURVIVING THAT'S HARD.


WAIT
A TEST
WHY— THOSE ARROWS WOULD HAVE KILLED US!
ART WIP
IF THE WOUNDS DIDN'T, THE POISON CERTAINLY WOULD.
DO THIS ENOUGH AND YOU LEARN WHAT TO LOOK FOR.
THAT POOL OF WATER IS IT DANGEROUS?
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, IT'S PROBABLY A PASSAGEWAY.
WE HAVE TO— SWIM TO GET WHERE WE'RE GOING?
BUT— IF IT'S A TRAP—!
OF COURSE, IT'S A TRAP. IF YOU'D RATHER STAY HERE, THAT'S FINE.
HOW... HOW DO WE KNOW HOW FAR WE'LL HAVE TO SWIM?


WE DON'T.
LARA'S RESOLVE SURPASSES THAT OF ANYONE I'VE EVER MET.
A NECESSARY TRAIT IN HER LINE OF WORK. I'M SURE.
AS WE SWIM DEEPER, ALL I CAN THINK OF IS ME.
LARA, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS.
SOLUTIONS THOSE POOR SOULS OBVIOUSLY NEVER FOUND.
SHE'S FOUND SOMETHING?

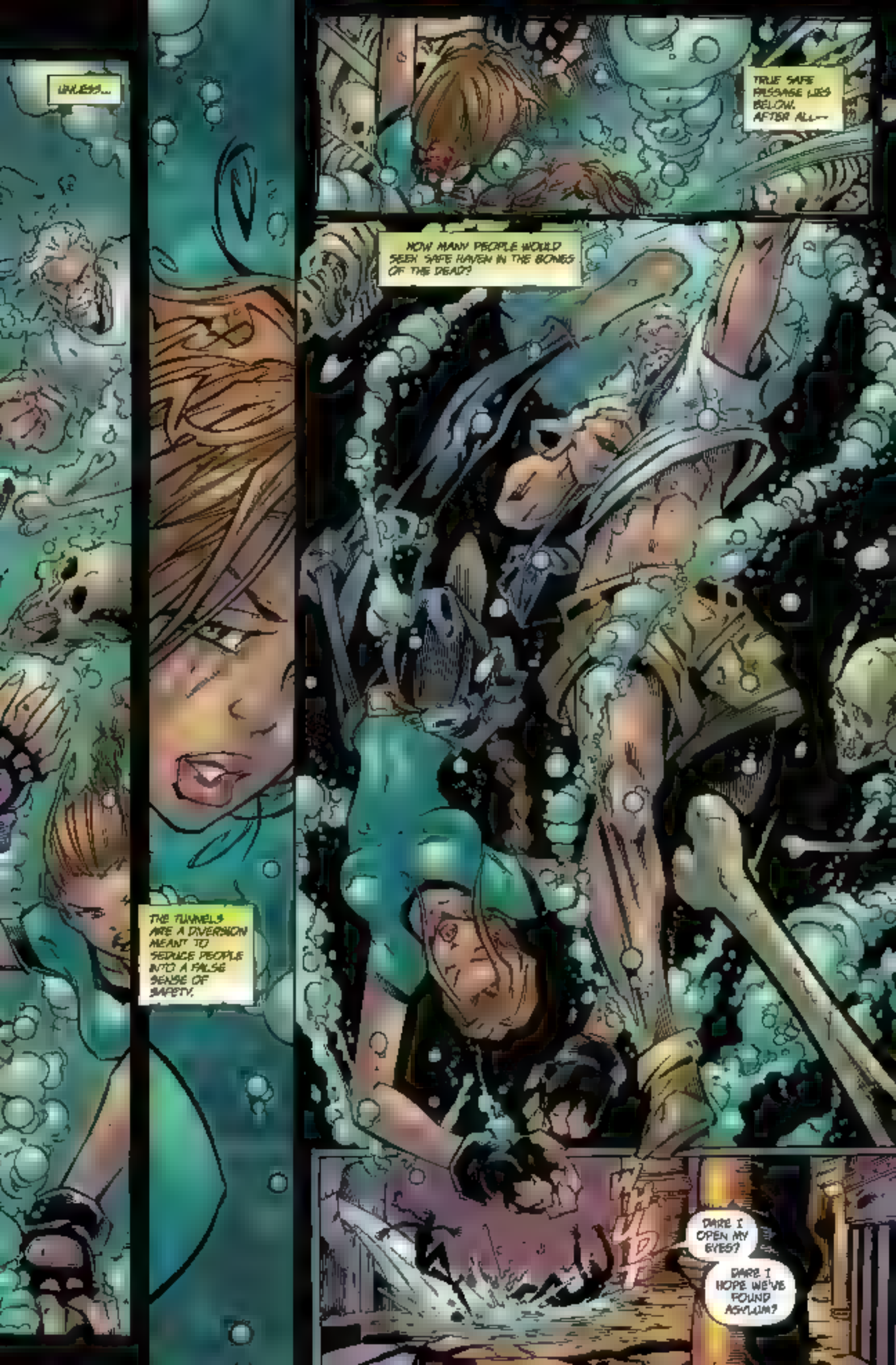

FIVE DIFFERENT TUNNELS AND SHE CHOOSES THIS ONE.
I'M TEMPTED TO HEAD BACK TO THE SURFACE.
BUT LARA HAS PROVEN HER EXPERTISE.
ALL I CAN HOPE—
IS THAT I DON'T END UP REGRETTING IT.

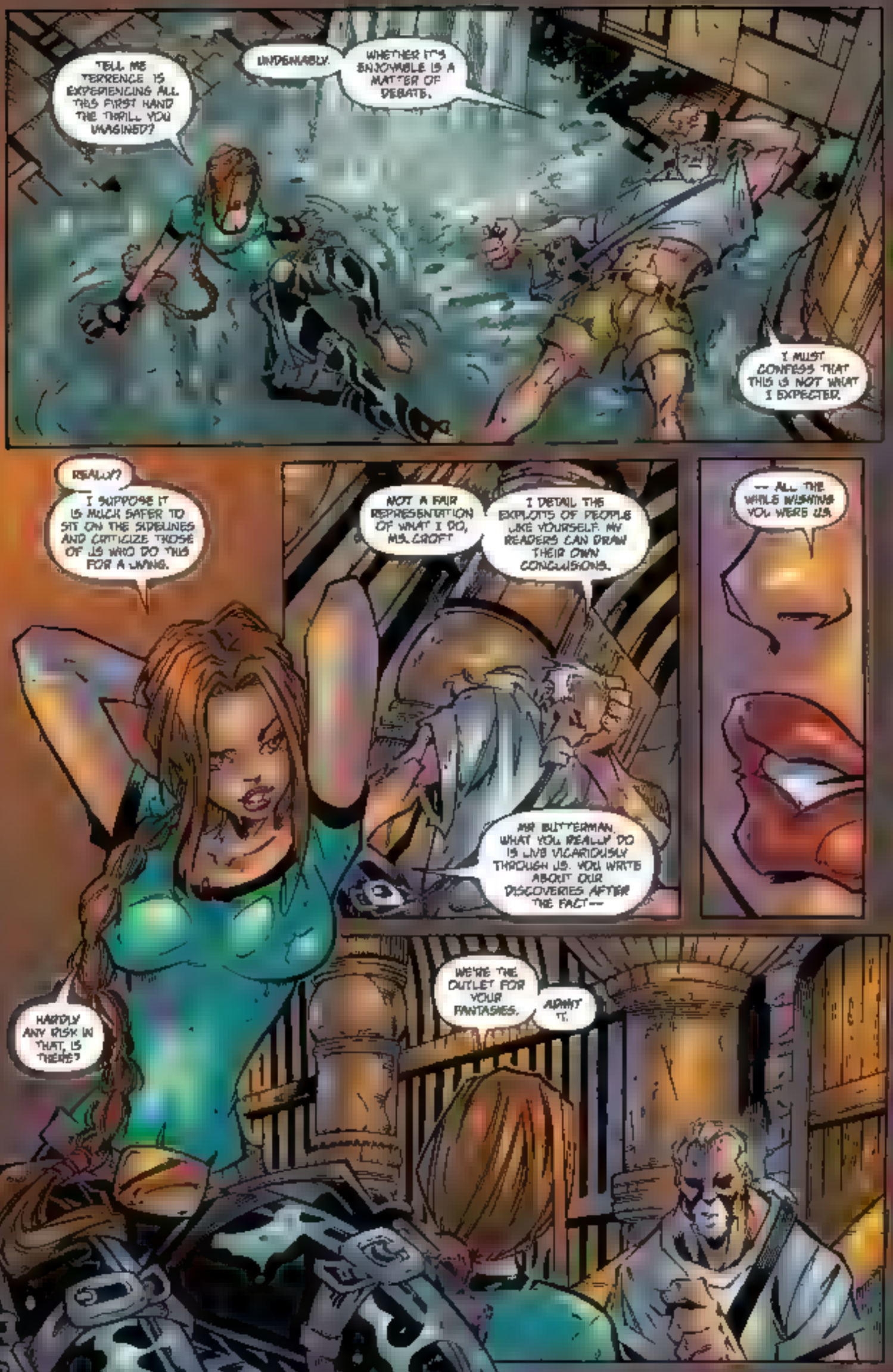

UNNOH—
— UNNOH—
— AHH!!

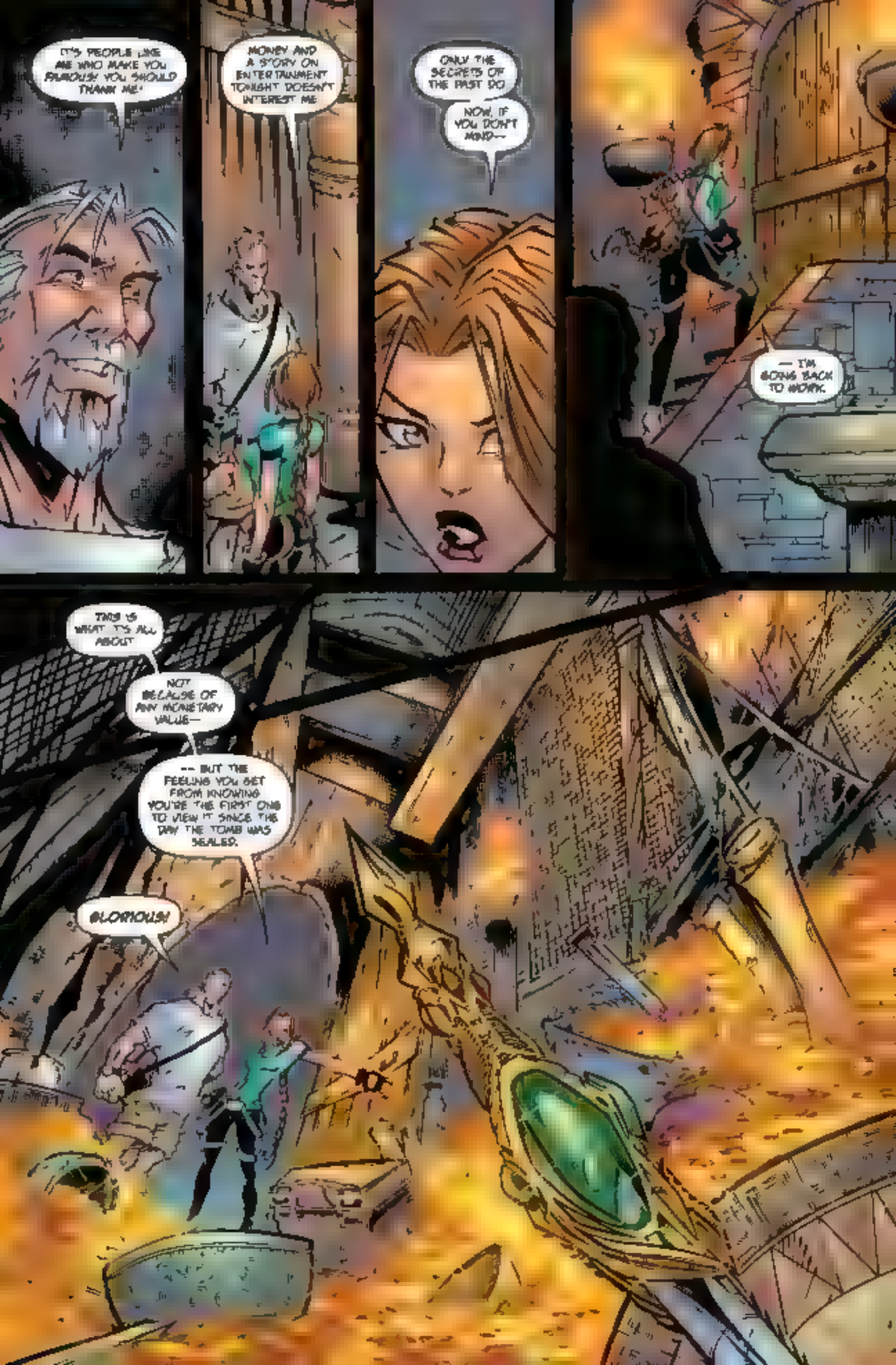

YOU WERE RIGHT! WE'RE SAFE!
HARDUK.
THAT'S OIL.
YOU MEAN---?
MERCIFUL HEAVENS...
DIVE!
I AM ON THE VERGE OF INCOHERENT SPASMS—
— LARA'S CALM DEMEANOR IN THE FACE OF DISASTER SAVES US.
ANOTHER TUNNEL?
WHAT POSSIBLY MAKES HER THINK THIS WILL BE ANY BETTER?

AHHH!
NO FIRE!
NO OIL!
WE CAN FINALLY RELAX!
TRINK!
NOT YET!
DOWN!

SPLOOSH
WHEN WILL SHE REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?
NONE OF THESE TUNNELS ARE SAFE!
EACH OF THEM IS UNDOUBTEDLY A DIFFERENT DEATH TRAP!
WE HAVE TO GO BACK!
HOW MORBID CAN YOU BE?!
DIGGING THROUGH THE BONES OF THOSE WHOSE FINAL FATE WE MIGHT WELL SHARE?
INEXPLICABLE!


UNLESS...
THE TUNNELS ARE A DIVERSION MEANT TO SEDUCE PEOPLE INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SAFETY.
TRUE SAFE PASSAGE LIES BELOW. AFTER ALL--
HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD SEEK SAFE HAVEN IN THE BONES OF THE DEAD?
DARE I OPEN MY EYES?
DARE I HOPE WE'VE FOUND ASYLUM?

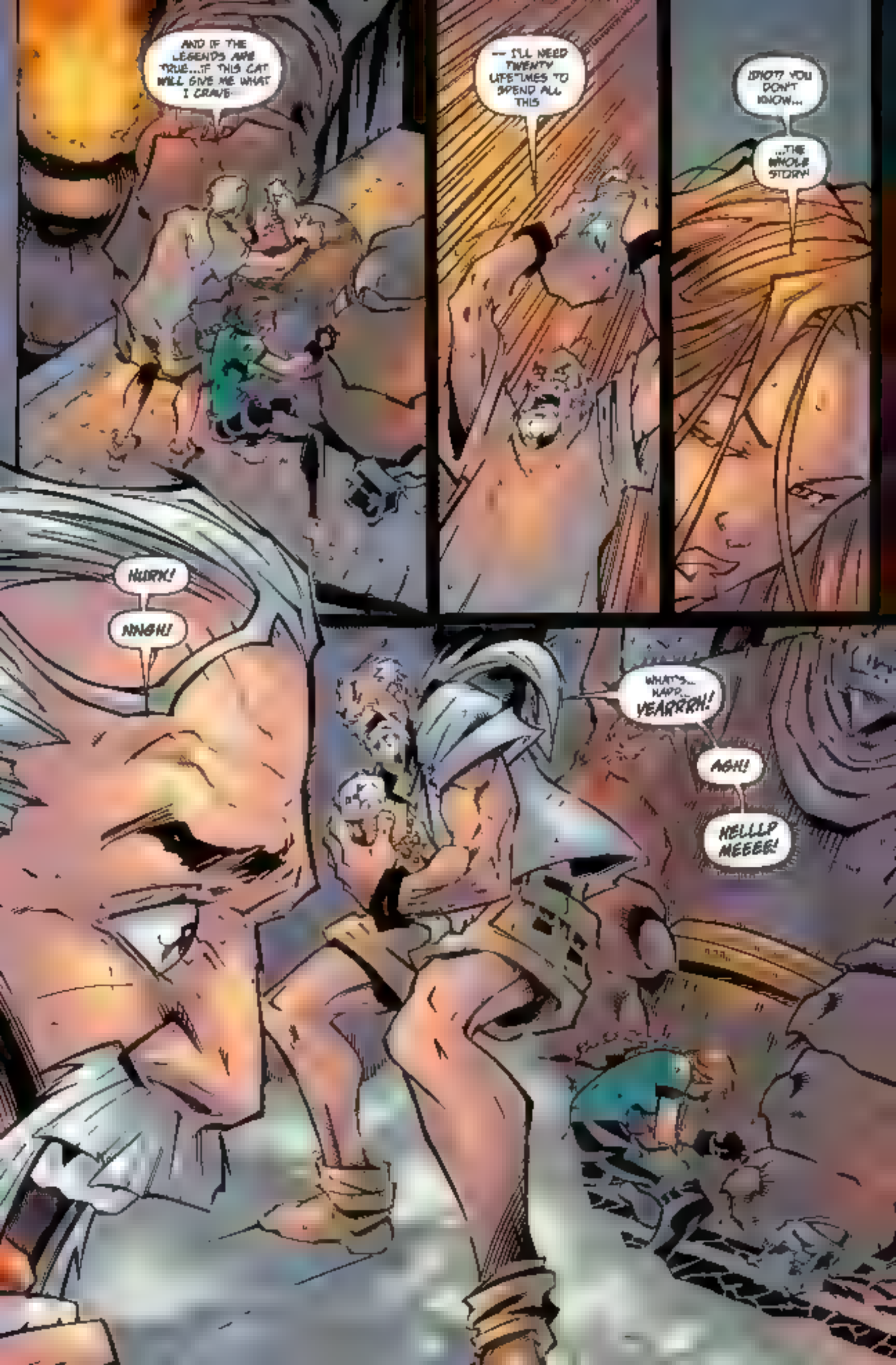

TELL ME TERRENCE IS EXPERIENCING ALL THIS FIRST HAND THE THRILL YOU IMAGINED?
UNDENIABLY.
WHETHER IT'S ENJOYABLE IS A MATTER OF DEBATE.
I MUST CONFESS THAT THIS IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED.
REALLY?
I SUPPOSE IT IS MUCH SAFER TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES AND CRITICIZE THOSE OF US WHO DO THIS FOR A LIVING.
NOT A FAIR REPRESENTATION OF WHAT I DO, MS. CROFT
I DETAIL THE EXPLOITS OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF. MY READERS CAN DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS.
-- ALL THE WHILE WISHING YOU WERE US.
MR BUTTERMAN, WHAT YOU REALLY DO IS LIVE VICARIOUSLY THROUGH US. YOU WRITE ABOUT OUR DISCOVERIES AFTER THE FACT--
HARDLY ANY RISK IN THAT, IS THERE?
WE'RE THE OUTLET FOR YOUR FANTASIES.
ADMIT IT.


IT'S PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO MAKE YOU FAMOUS! YOU SHOULD THANK ME!
MONEY AND A STORY ON ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT DOESN'T INTEREST ME
ONLY THE SECRETS OF THE PAST DO
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND—
— I'M GOING BACK TO WORK.
THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT
NOT BECAUSE OF ANY MONETARY VALUE—
-- BUT THE FEELING YOU GET FROM KNOWING YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE TO VIEW IT SINCE THE DAY THE TOMB WAS SEALED.
GLORIOUS!

THIS...IS INTOXICATING!
THE WEALTH--- THE TREASURES--- HOW CAN YOU BE SO COOL?
IN TIME, WE'LL GET ALL OF IT TO A PROPER PLACE OF DISPLAY.
RIGHT NOW, IT'S THE CAT WE CAME FOR AND THE CAT WE'LL GET.
AMAZING...
...INCREDIBLE...
WHY, TERRENCE. YOU SUDDENLY SEEM MORE CONCERNED WITH MONETARY THAN HISTORICAL WORTH.
OF COURSE.
FORGIVE ME.
STUPID WITCH.
HOW DARE SHE TAKE THAT HOLIER THAN THOU APPROACH WITH ME?
THIS STAFF.
LOOKS LIKE THE TICKET INSIDE TO ME.

TSSSSSS
FSWIPT
SPEOWWW
TRMMMM
CKRIKKT
VOLA!
IT'S...REAL! IT REALLY DOES EXIST?
SIMPLY KNOWN AS THE CAT.
IT'S SAID THAT WHOEVER OWNS IT IS GIVEN NINE LIVES. PROBABLY THE NEXT BEST THING TO IMMORTALITY ITSELF!
SIMPLE LEGEND AND FICTION OF COURSE
PERHAPS. BUT IF EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME ANYTHING IT'S THAT A GREAT DEAL MORE IS POSSIBLE

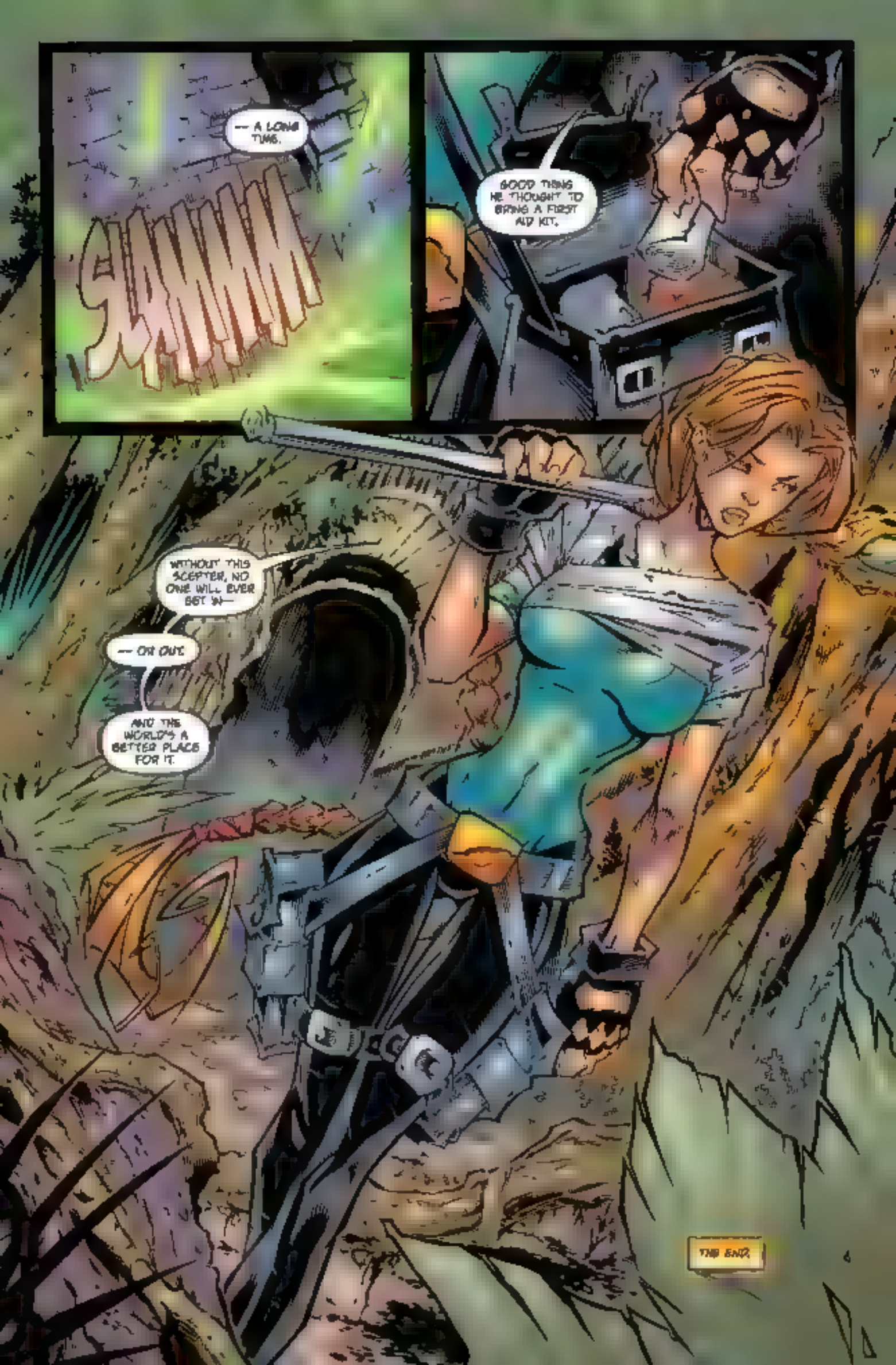
NEH.
IMAGINE THAT
B-DAMM
ARGGH!
PERHAPS MONEY IS OF NO CONCERN TO YOU, BUT IT IS TO ME.
I'LL NOT WALK AWAY UNFULFILLED FROM RICHES LIKE THIS!
UHN!


AND IF THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE...IF THIS CAT WILL GIVE ME WHAT I CRAVE--
-- I'LL NEED TWENTY LIFETIMES TO SPEND ALL THIS
IDIOT! YOU DON'T KNOW...
...THE WHOLE STORY!
HURK!
NNGH!
WHAT'S... HAPP... YEARRRH!
AGH!
HELLLP MEEEE!

HLKKT!
--HUHHHLLLL!

MMMM... HMMMMM...
NINE LIVES OR ONE.
KOOWWWW
BAM BAM
SAME OLD SOLUTION TO THE SAME OLD PROBLEM.
WHUPT
WUP
WHUPT
SO MUCH FOR MULTIPLE LIVES.

THEN AGAIN...
GRRR...
IF LIVING FOREVER WITH YOUR RICHES IS ALL YOU CARE ABOUT—
— THEN I'LL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT.
HAVE FUN, BUTTERMAN.
ISSSSS
SPEEOOOW
YOU'RE GOING TO BE HERE—


— A LONG TIME.
SLAMMM
GOOD THING HE THOUGHT TO BRING A FIRST AID KIT.
WITHOUT THIS SCEPTER, NO ONE WILL EVER BET W—
— OR OUT.
AND THE WORLD'S A BETTER PLACE FOR IT.
THE END?

JD SMITH

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
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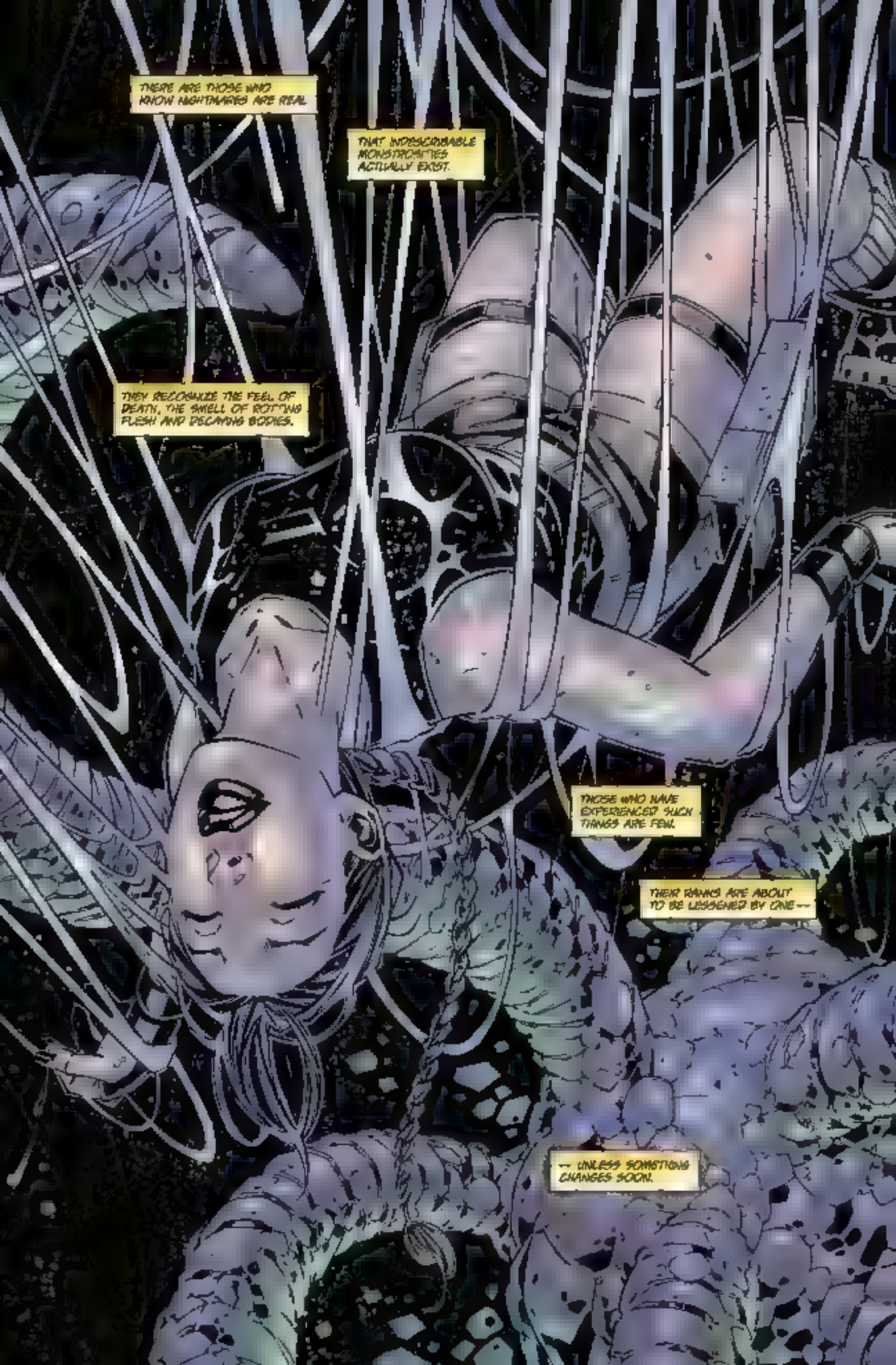
JONATHAN SIBAL

COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH


THERE ARE THOSE WHO KNOW NIGHTMARES ARE REAL
THAT UNDESCRIBABLE MONSTROSITIES ACTUALLY EXIST.
THEY RECOGNIZE THE FEEL OF DEATH, THE SMELL OF ROTTING FLESH AND DECAYING BODIES.
THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SUCH THINGS ARE FEW.
THEIR RANKS ARE ABOUT TO BE LESSENED BY ONE--
-- UNLESS SOMETHING CHANGES SOON.

HOW LONG HAS SHE BEEN HERE?

HOURS?

IN THE MAZE OF PAIN MEMORIES DANCE FITFULLY BY.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE THE MONSTER PULLED HER BENEATH HENRY'S ACRID SURFACE?

DAYS?

SINCE IT PULLED HER THROUGH THE FOUL, COLD TUNNELS?

SINCE SHE FOUND THE BODIES?

INNOCENT PEOPLE PRESUMED LOST. THAT SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO RESCUE?

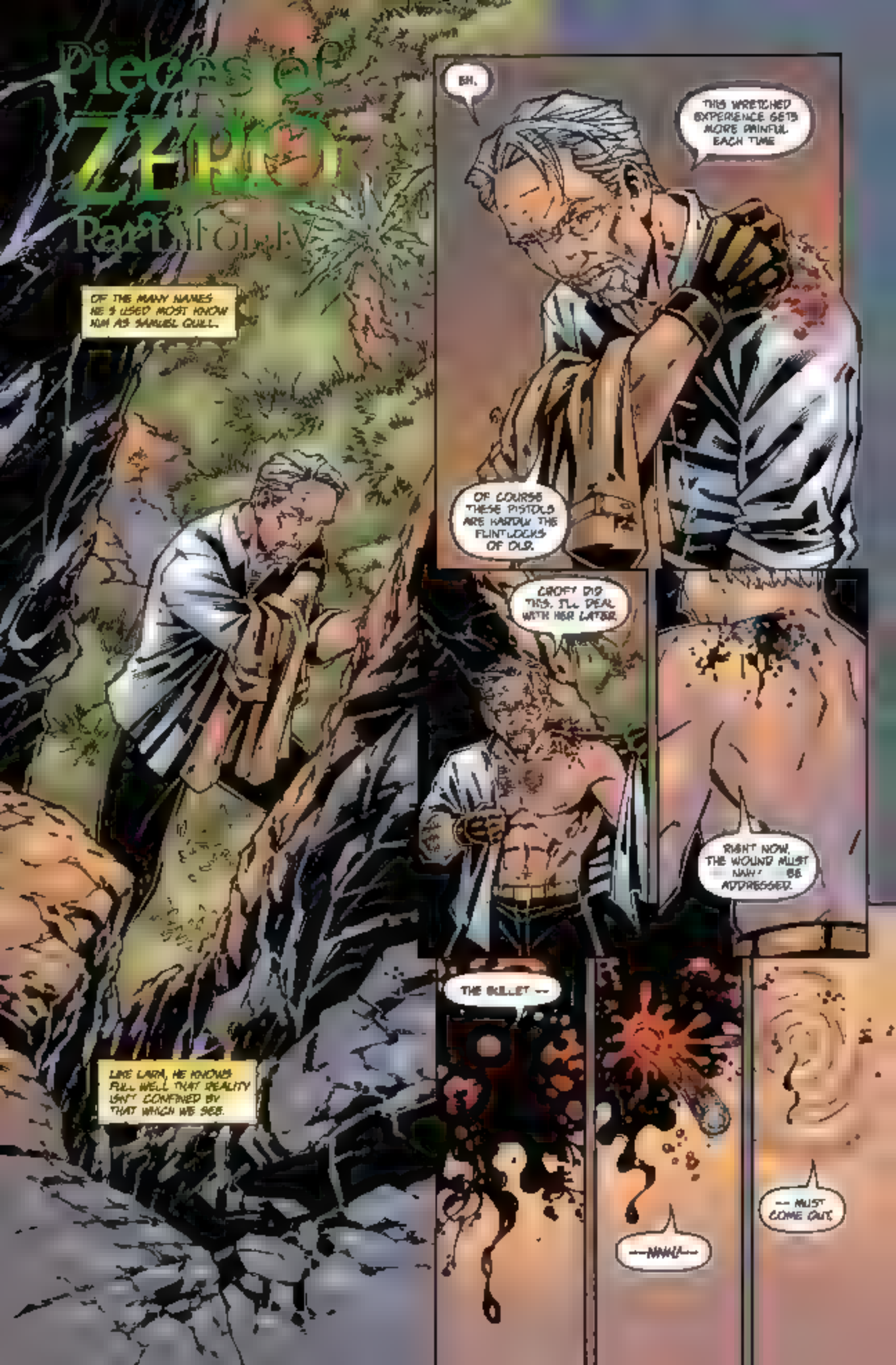
WEEKS?

MINUTES?

THE CREATURE'S VENOM HAS LEFT HER BARELY ABLE TO MOVE.

PERHAPS IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF HOW LONG SHE'S BEEN HERE ---

-- BUT HOW LONG SHE HAS LEFT.



Pieces of Zero

Part II of IV

OF THE MANY NAMES HE'S USED MOST KNOW HIM AS SAMUEL QUILL.

LIKE LARA, HE KNOWS FULL WELL THAT REALITY ISN'T CONFINED BY THAT WHICH WE SEE.

EH.

THIS WRETCHED EXPERIENCE GETS MORE PAINFUL EACH TIME

OF COURSE THESE PISTOLS ARE HARDLY THE FLINTLOCKS OF OLD.

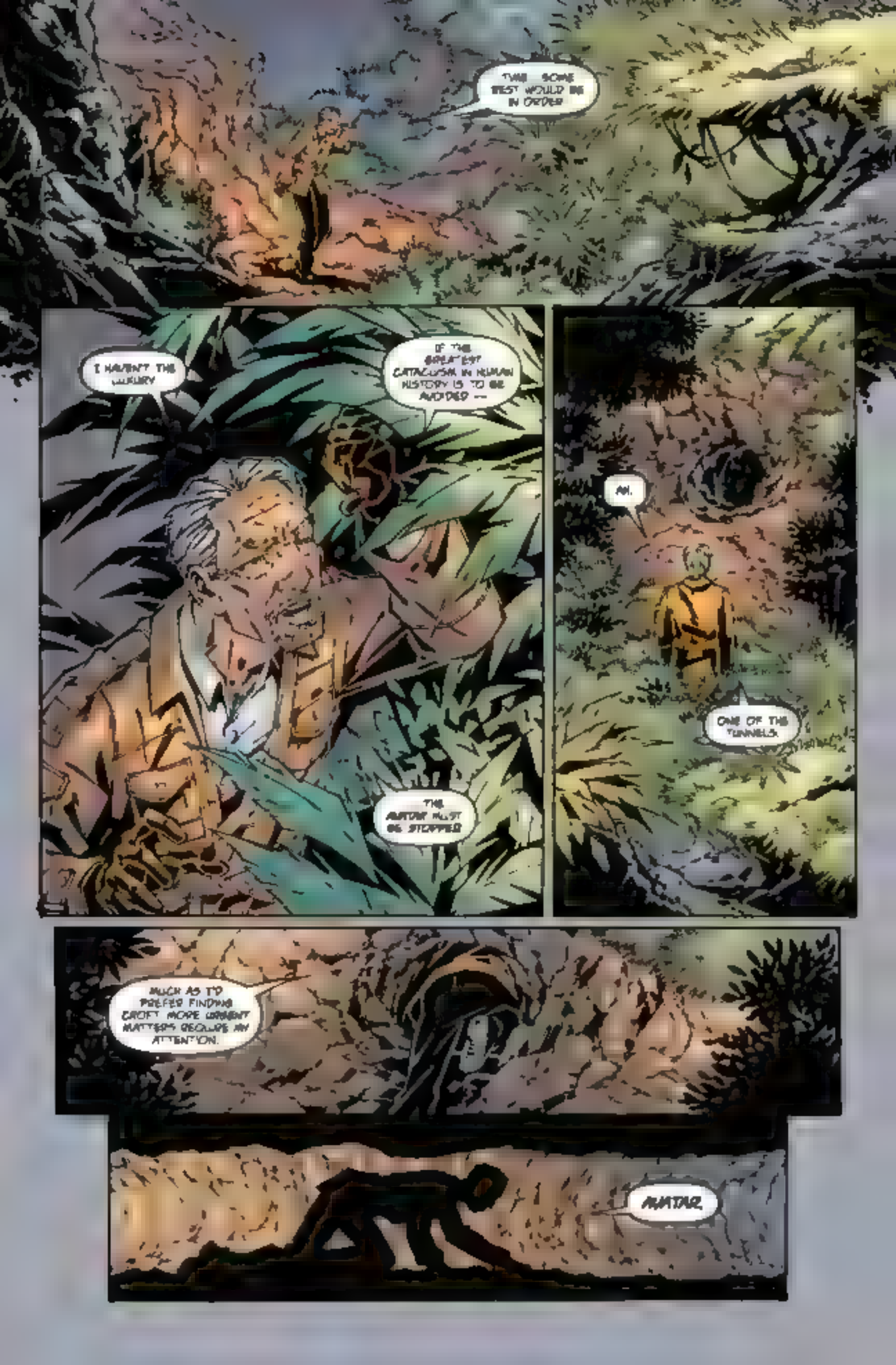
CROFT DID THIS. I'LL DEAL WITH HER LATER.

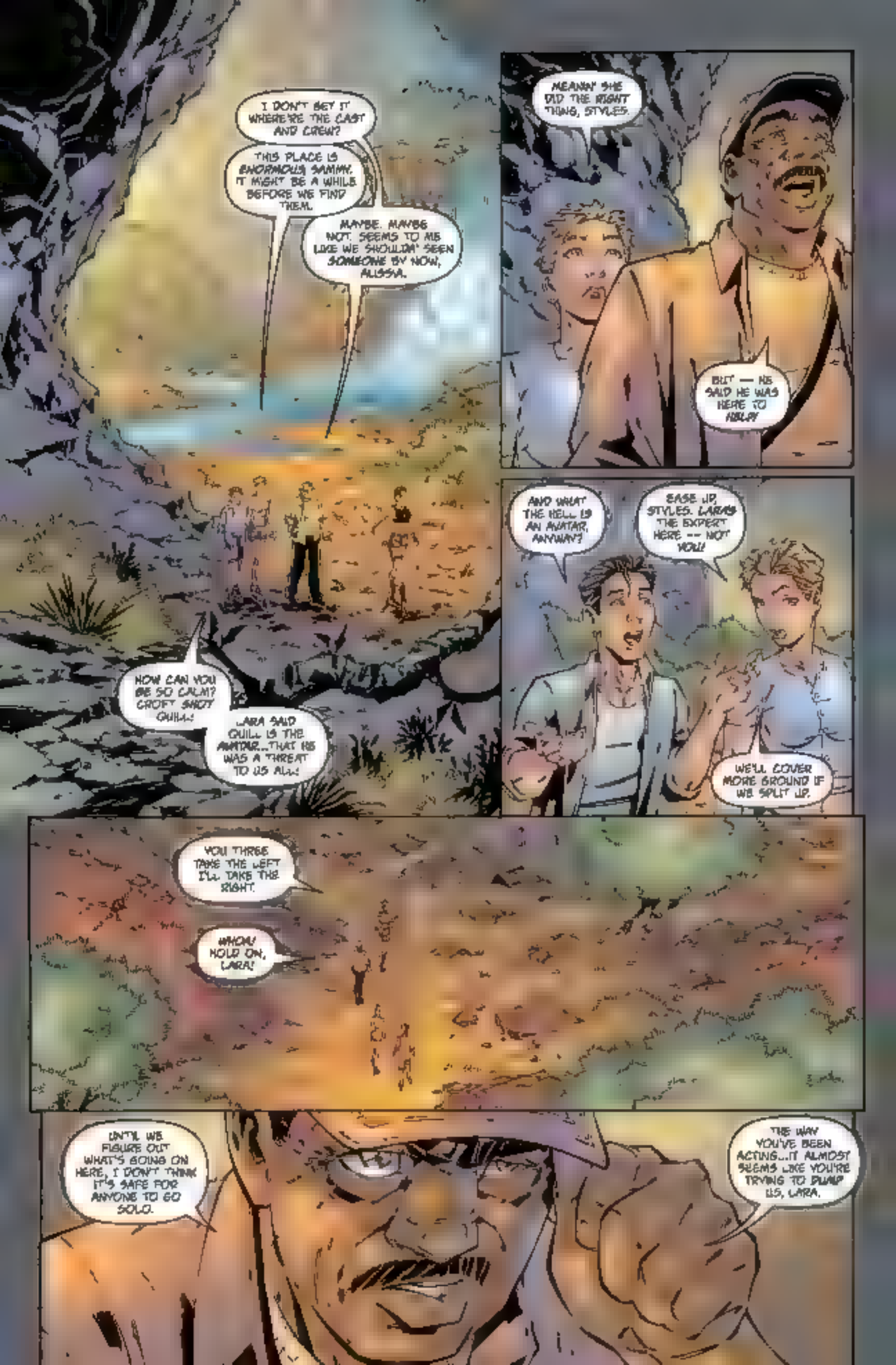
RIGHT NOW, THE WOUND MUST NNH! BE ADDRESSED.

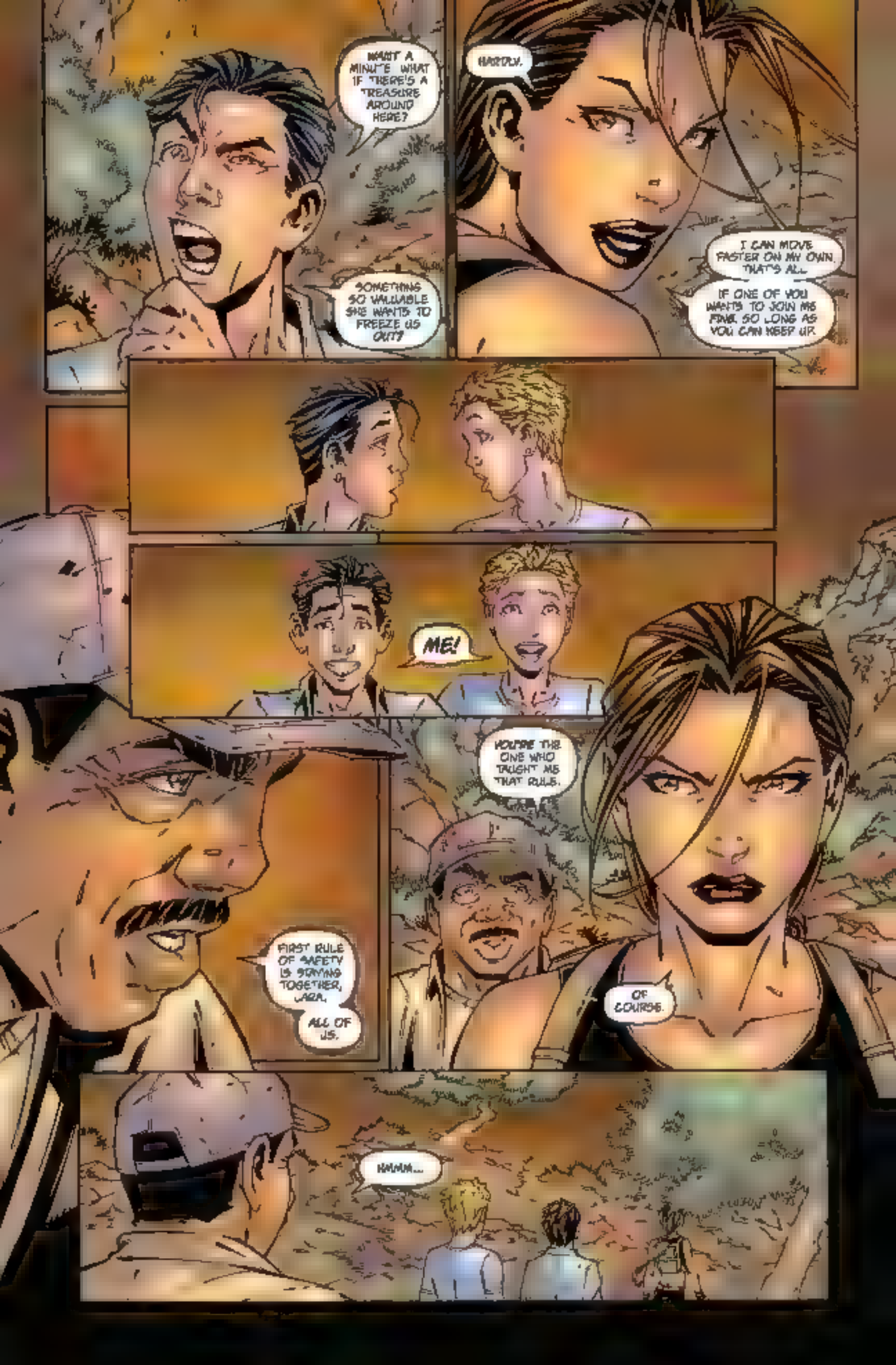
THE BULLET --

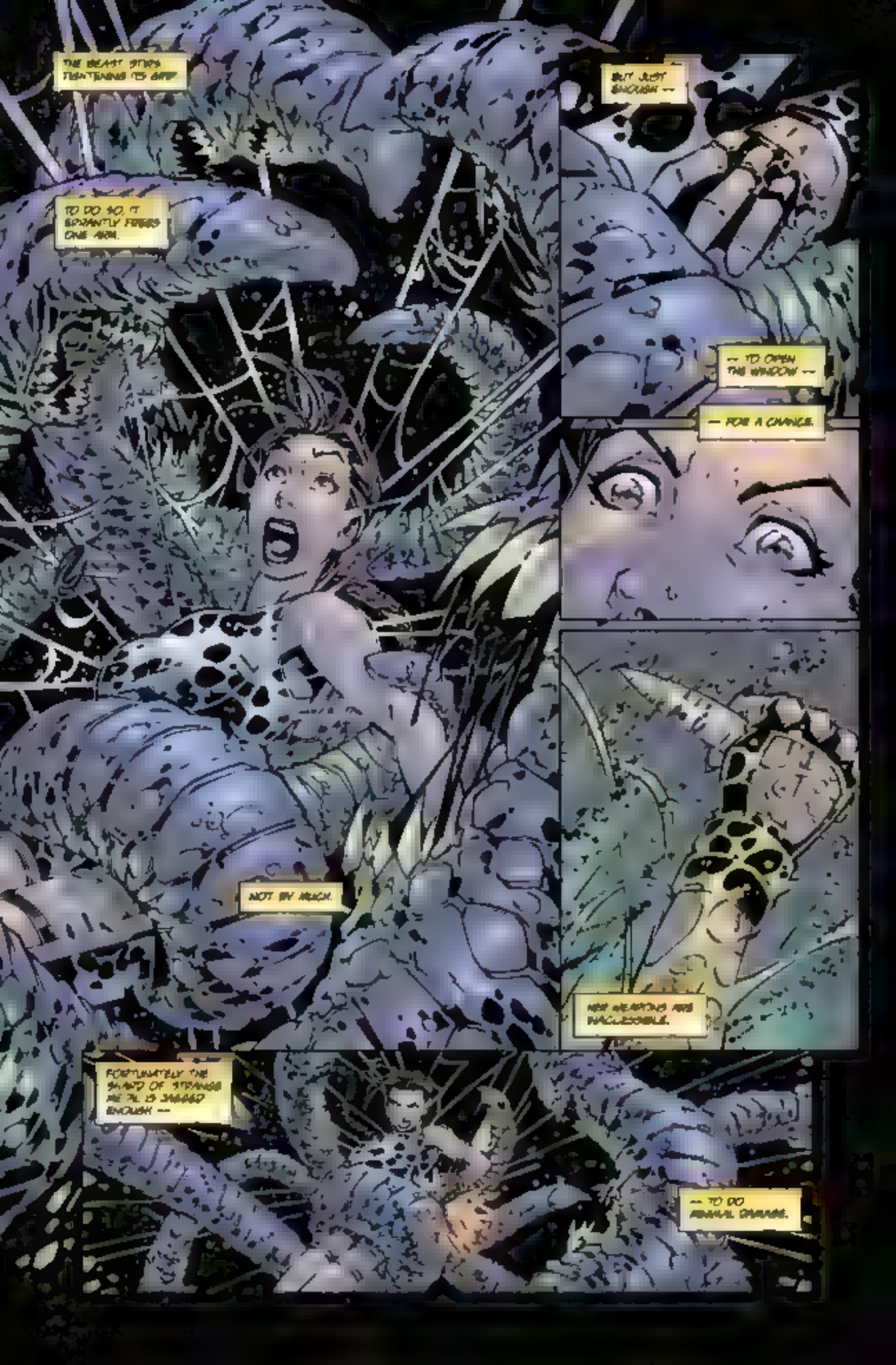
--NNH!--

-- MUST COME OUT.

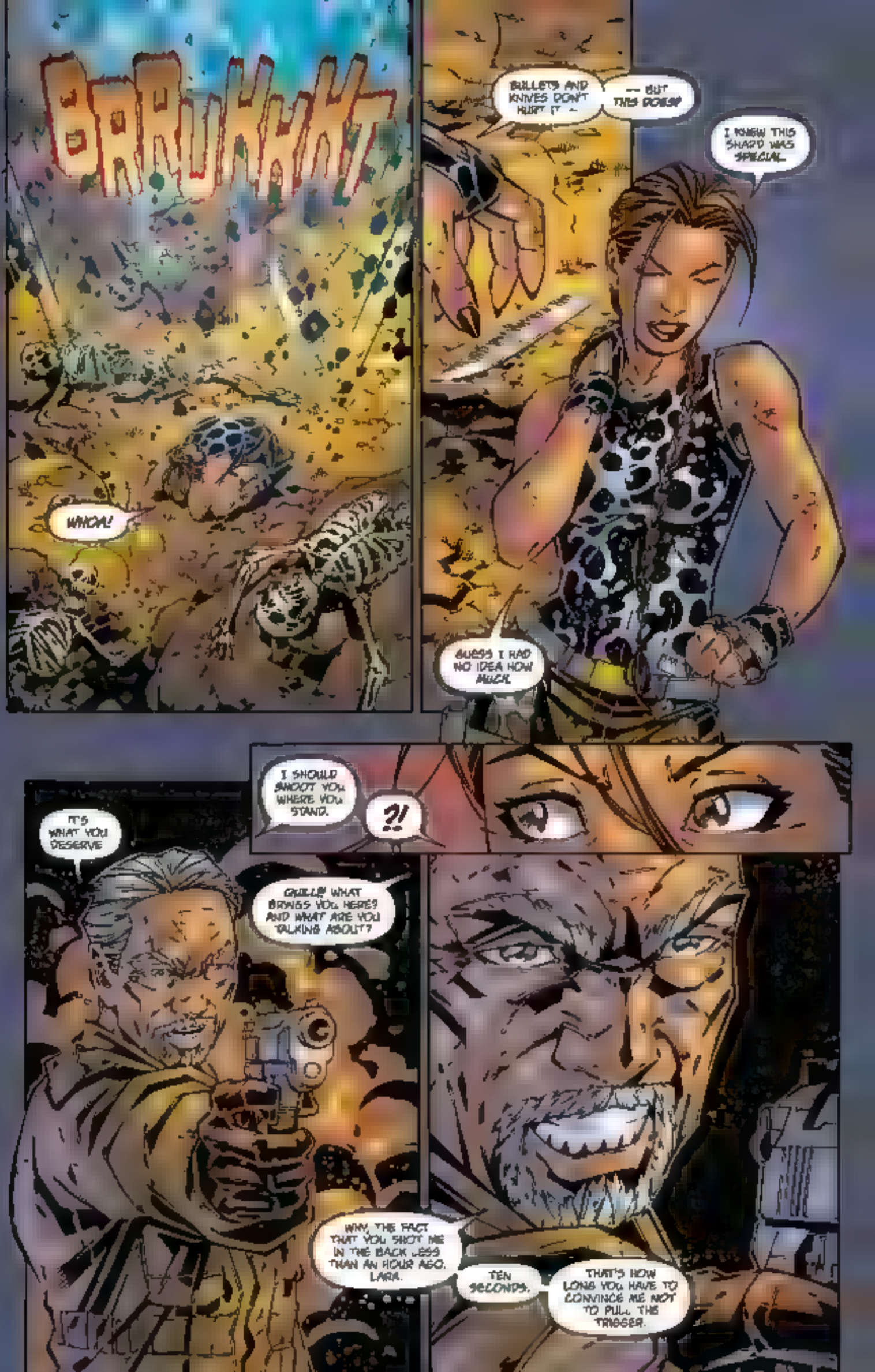

THIS SCENE BEST WOULD BE IN ORDER
I HAVEN'T THE LUXURY
IF THE GREATEST CATACLYSM IN HUMAN HISTORY IS TO BE AVOIDED --
THE AVATAR MUST BE STOPPED
AH.
ONE OF THE TUNNELS.
MUCH AS I'D PREFER FINDING CROFT MORE URGENT MATTERS REQUIRE MY ATTENTION.
AVATAR.

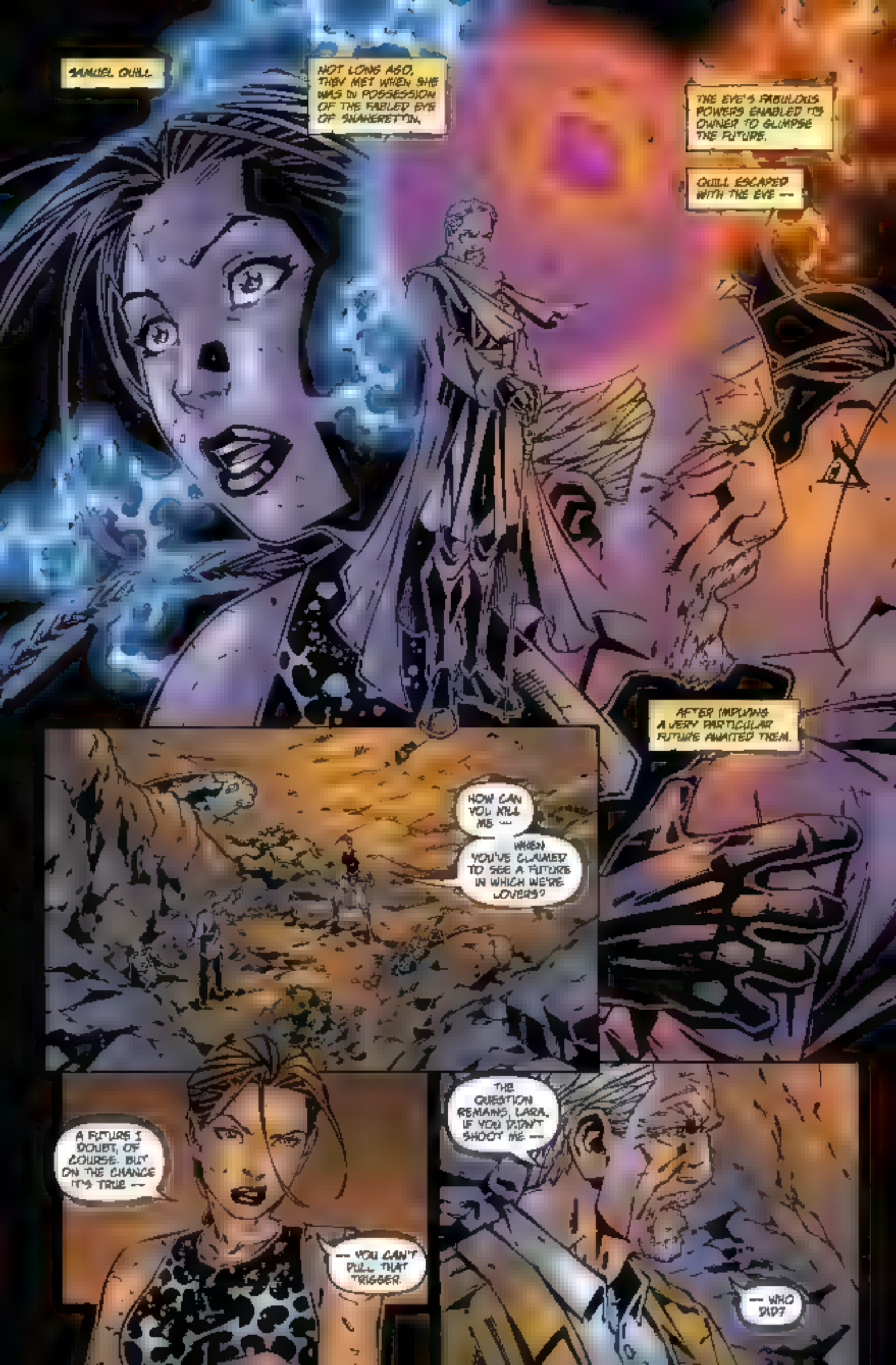

I DON'T BET IT WHERE'RE THE CAST AND CREW?
THIS PLACE IS ENORMOUS, SAMMY. IT MIGHT BE A WHILE BEFORE WE FIND THEM.
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT. SEEMS TO ME LIKE WE SHOULDA' SEEN SOMEONE BY NOW, ALYSSA.
MEANIN' SHE DID THE RIGHT THING, STYLES.
BUT — HE SAID HE WAS HERE TO HELP
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM? CROFT SHOT GUILL!
LARA SAID GUILL IS THE AVATAR...THAT HE WAS A THREAT TO US ALL!
AND WHAT THE HELL IS AN AVATAR, ANYWAY?
EASE UP, STYLES. LARA'S THE EXPERT HERE -- NOT YOU!
WE'LL COVER MORE GROUND IF WE SPLIT UP.
YOU THREE TAKE THE LEFT I'LL TAKE THE RIGHT.
WHOA! HOLD ON, LARA!
UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, I DON'T THINK IT'S SAFE FOR ANYONE TO GO SOLO.
THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN ACTING...IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO DUMP US, LARA.

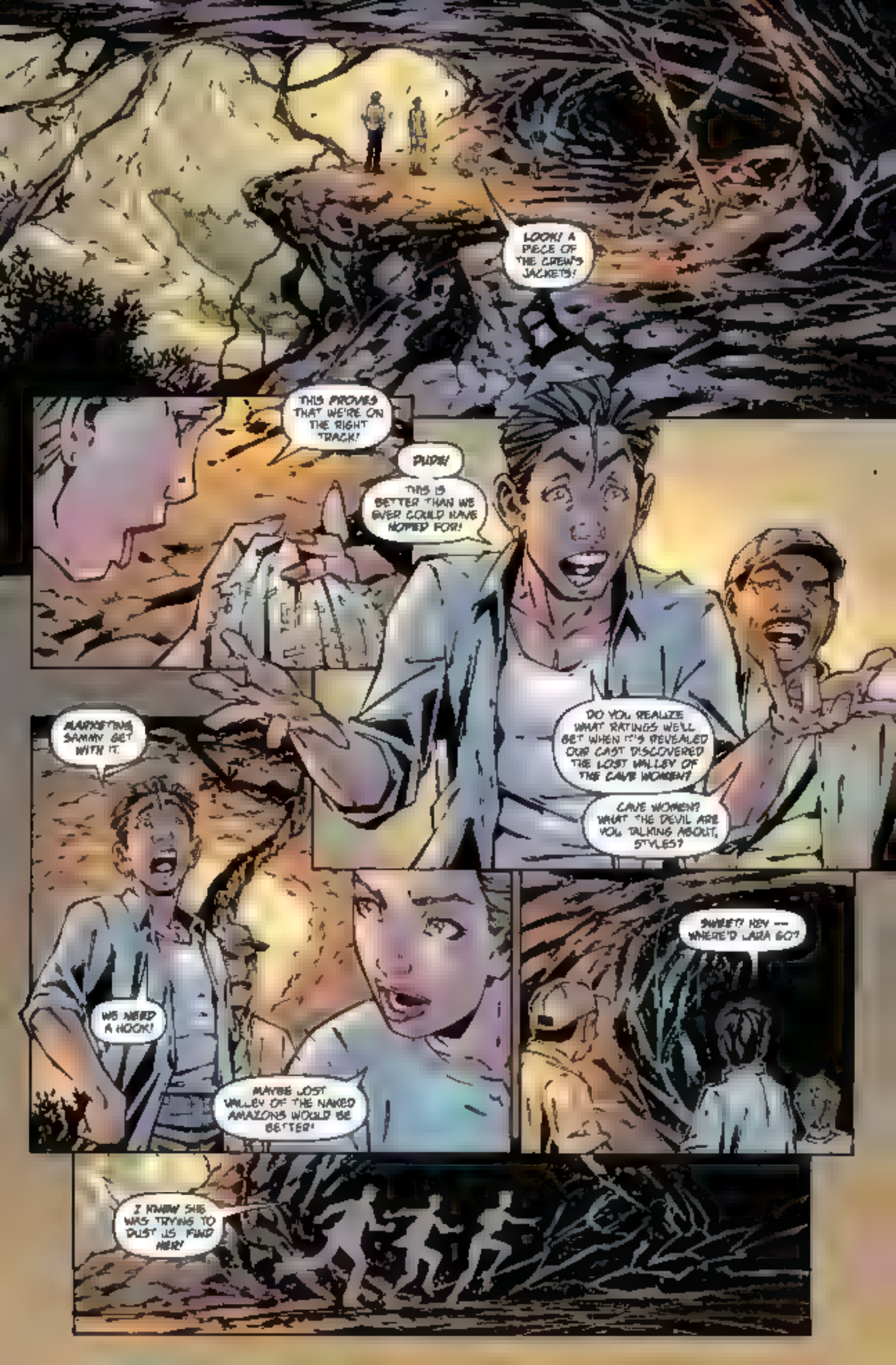

WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT IF THERE'S A TREASURE AROUND HERE?
SOMETHING SO VALUABLE SHE WANTS TO FREEZE US OUT?
HARDLY.
I CAN MOVE FASTER ON MY OWN, THAT'S ALL.
IF ONE OF YOU WANTS TO JOIN ME FINE, SO LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP UP.
ME!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME THAT RULE.
FIRST RULE OF SAFETY IS STAYING TOGETHER, JAZA.
ALL OF US.
OF COURSE.
HMMM...

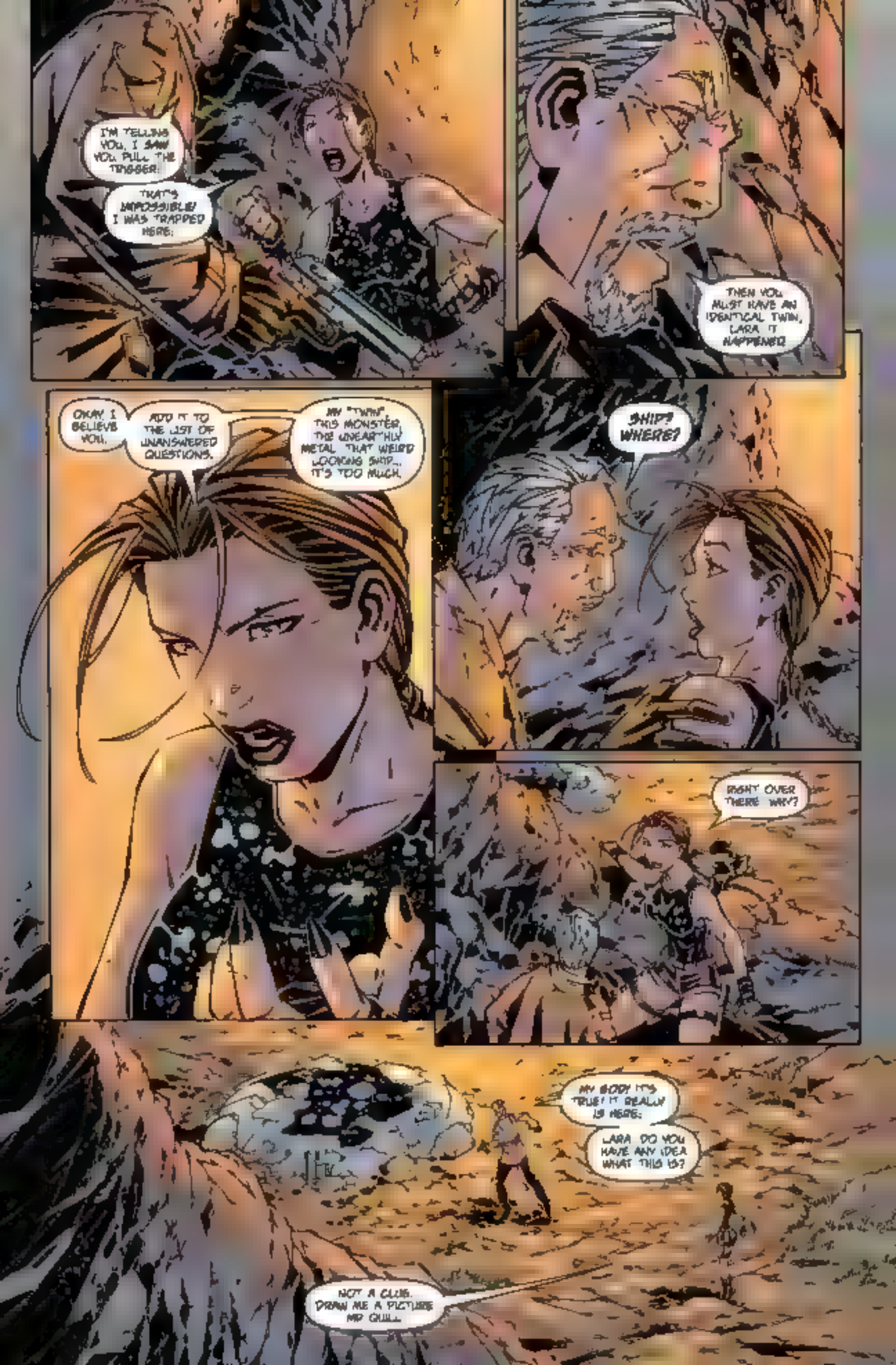

THE BEAST STOPS TIGHTENING ITS GRIP
TO DO SO, IT BRIEFLY FREES ONE ARM.
BUT JUST ENOUGH --
-- TO OPEN THE WINDOW --
-- FOR A CHANCE.
NOT BY MUCH.
HER WEAPONS ARE INACCESSIBLE.
FORTUNATELY THE SHARD OF STRANGE METAL IS JAGGED ENOUGH --
-- TO DO MINIMAL DAMAGE.

NNH!
ARRROOOO!
WAPT
IT'S... CALCIFYING?
KKRIKKT
DYING?!
CHKT
TSSSSS


BRRUKKKT
WHOA!
BULLETS AND KNIVES DON'T HURT IT --
-- BUT THIS DOES!
I KNEW THIS SHARD WAS SPECIAL.
GUESS I HAD NO IDEA HOW MUCH.
I SHOULD SHOOT YOU WHERE YOU STAND.
?!
IT'S WHAT YOU DESERVE
GRELL? WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? AND WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHY, THE FACT THAT YOU SHOT ME IN THE BACK LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO, LARA.
TEN SECONDS.
THAT'S HOW LONG YOU HAVE TO CONVINCE ME NOT TO PULL THE TRIGGER.

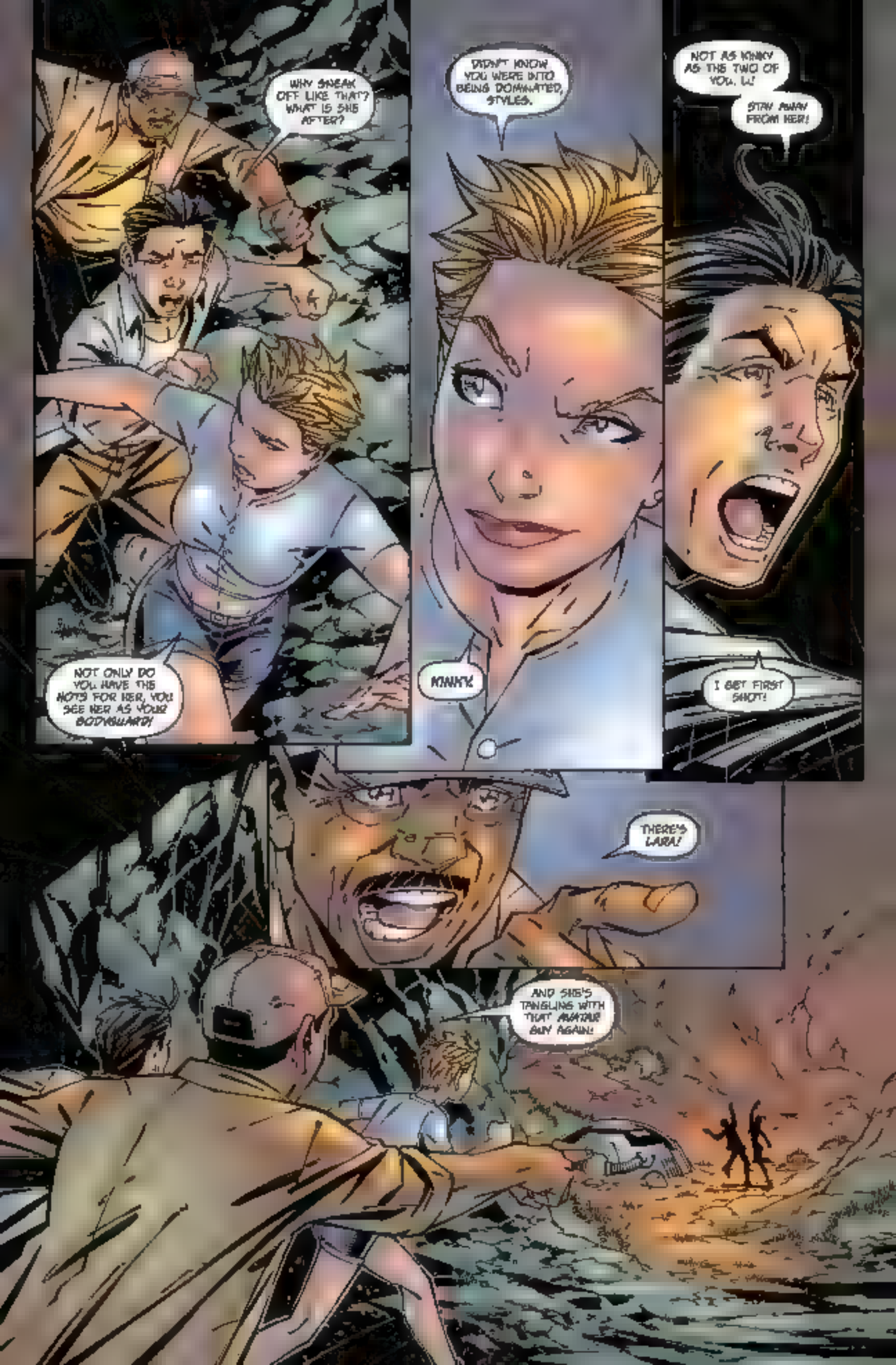

SAMUEL QUILL
NOT LONG AGO, THEY MET WHEN SHE WAS IN POSSESSION OF THE FABLED EYE OF SHAHERETTIN.
THE EYE'S FABULOUS POWERS ENABLED ITS OWNER TO GLIMPSE THE FUTURE.
QUILL ESCAPED WITH THE EYE --
AFTER IMPLYING A VERY PARTICULAR FUTURE AWAITED THEM.
HOW CAN YOU KILL ME --
-- WHEN YOU'VE CLAIMED TO SEE A FUTURE IN WHICH WE'RE LOVERS?
A FUTURE I DOUBT, OF COURSE. BUT ON THE CHANCE IT'S TRUE --
-- YOU CAN'T PULL THAT TRIGGER.
THE QUESTION REMAINS, LARA, IF YOU DIDN'T SHOOT ME --
-- WHO DID?


LOOK! A PIECE OF THE CREW'S JACKETS!
THIS PROVES THAT WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!
DUDE!
THIS IS BETTER THAN WE EVER COULD HAVE HOPED FOR!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT RATINGS WE'LL GET WHEN IT'S REVEALED OUR CAST DISCOVERED THE LOST VALLEY OF THE CAVE WOMEN?
CAVE WOMEN? WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, STYLES?
ALRIGHTIE, SAMMY GET WITH IT.
WE NEED A HOOK!
MAYBE LOST VALLEY OF THE NAKED AMAZONS WOULD BE BETTER!
SWEET! HEY — WHERE'D LARA GO?
I KNOW SHE WAS TRYING TO DUST US FIND HER!


I'M TELLING YOU, I SAW YOU PULL THE TRIGGER!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I WAS TRAPPED HERE!
THEN YOU MUST HAVE AN IDENTICAL TWIN, LARA. IT HAPPENED
OKAY, I BELIEVE YOU.
ADD IT TO THE LIST OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.
MY "TWIN", THIS MONSTER, THE UNEARTHLY METAL THAT WEIRD LOOKING SHIP... IT'S TOO MUCH.
SHIP? WHERE?
RIGHT OVER THERE WAY?
MY BODY. IT'S TRUE! IT REALLY IS HERE.
LARA DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THIS IS?
NOT A CLUE. DRAW ME A PICTURE AND QUILL.

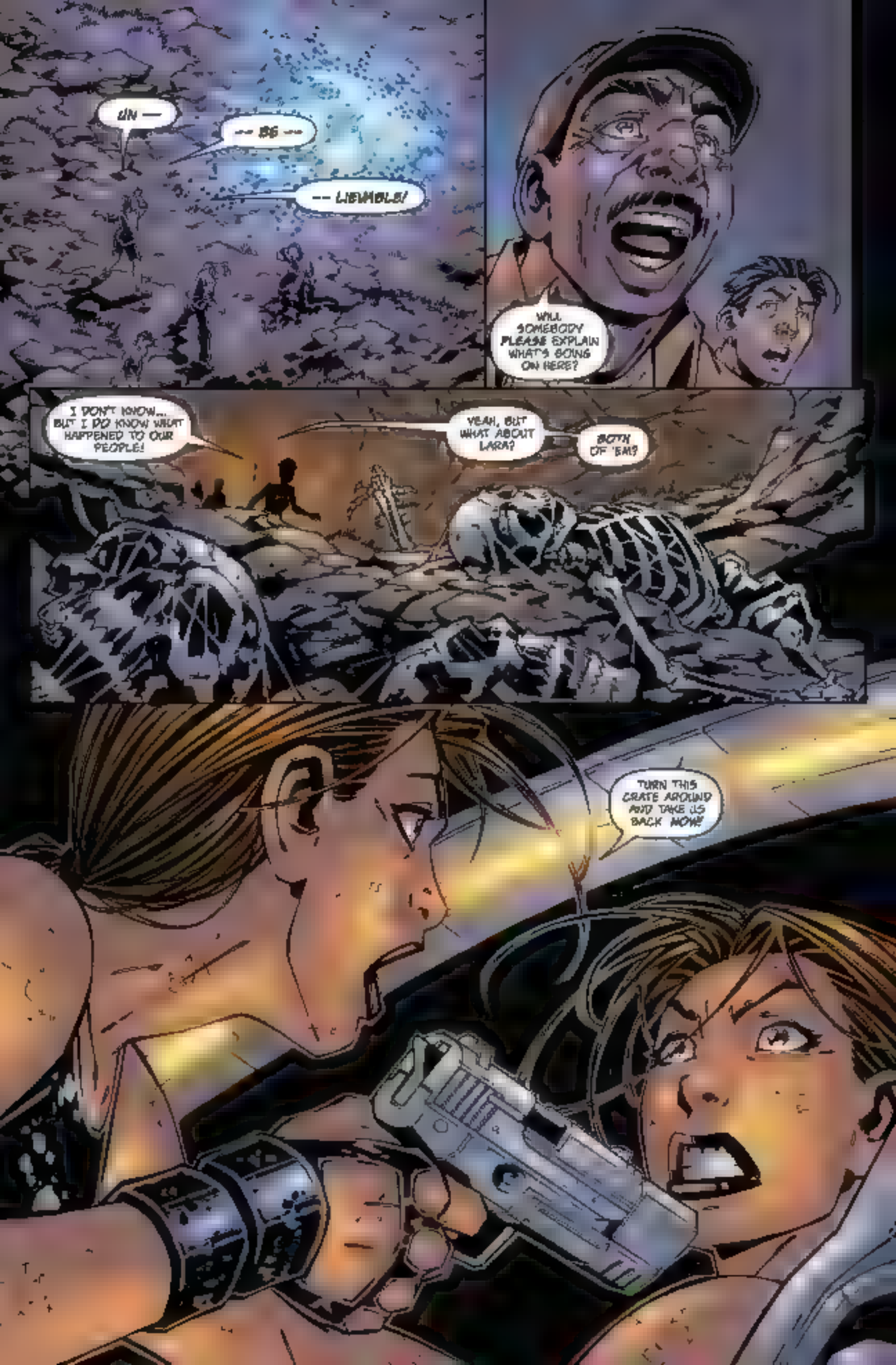
IT'S A MIRACLE.
NOTHING LESS THAN WHAT MAN MIGHT DESIRE MORE THAN ANY OTHER.
ACCESS TO THE ULTIMATE.
KNOWLEDGE.
POWER, LARA.
UNLIMITED, UNDREAMED OF POWER.

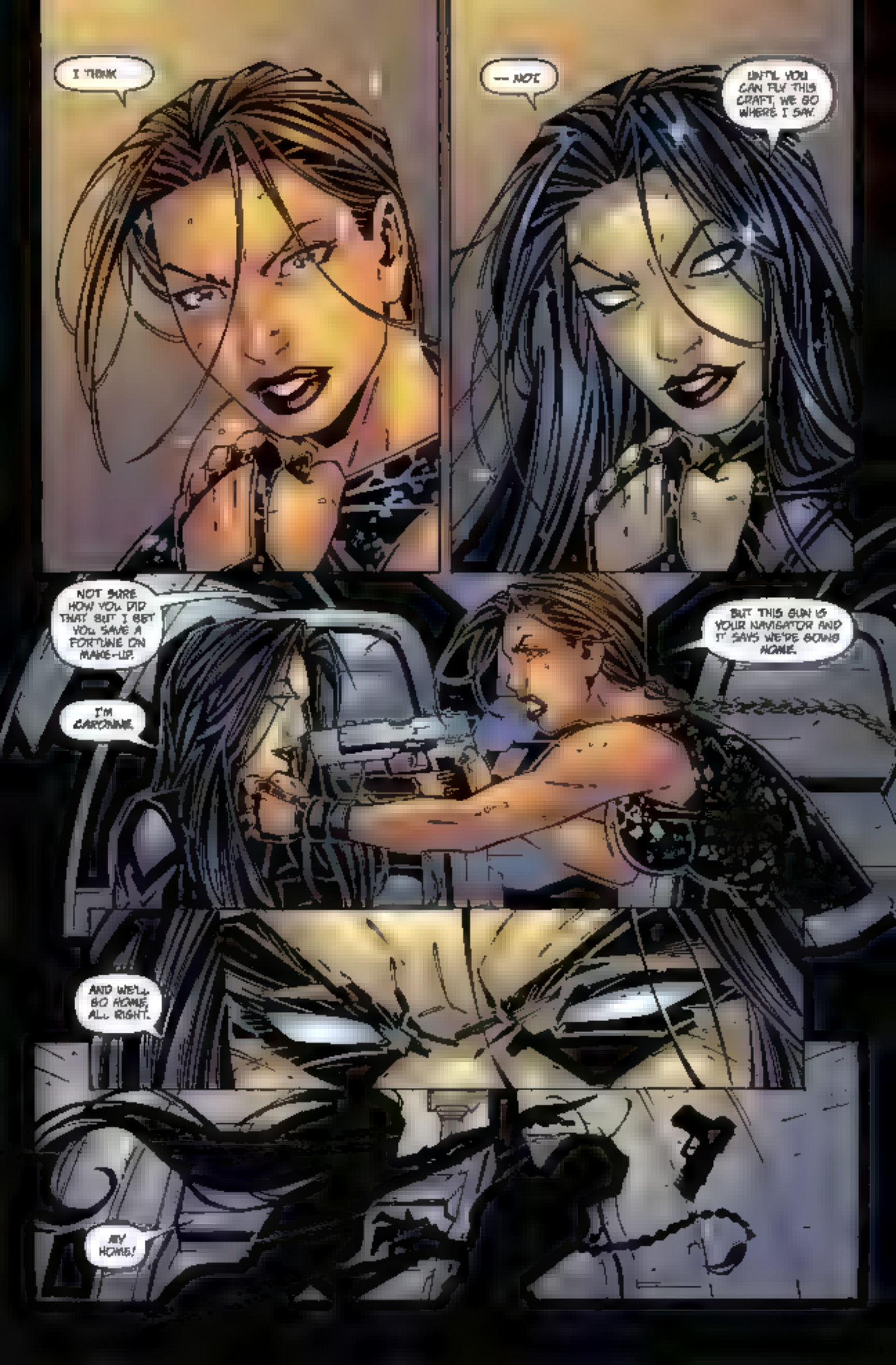
THIS CRAFT, BARELY THE SIZE OF A SMALL CAR, IS FAR AND AWAY THE MOST VALUABLE ITEM IN EXISTENCE
WORTH MORE THAN THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF ALL BUT A HANDFUL OF NATIONS.
THIS IS A VESSEL, LARA. FROM THE FUTURE.
ABLE TO TRAVEL FORWARD AND BACKWARD THROUGH TIME ITSELF.
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?
DON'T FORGET, THE EYE OF SHAHERETTIN IS MINE.
I CAN SEE TOMORROW. I WISH I COULD TELL YOU ALL I KNOW.
DANGEROUS KNOWLEDGE —
WAP
— FOR A NEOPHYTE WHO DOESN'T KNOW AS MUCH AS HE THINKS!


WHY SNEAK OFF LIKE THAT? WHAT IS SHE AFTER?
NOT ONLY DO YOU HAVE THE HOTS FOR HER, YOU SEE HER AS YOUR BODYGUARD!
DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO BEING DOMINATED, STYLES.
KINKY.
NOT AS KINKY AS THE TWO OF YOU, U!
STAY AWAY FROM HER!
I GET FIRST SHOT!
THERE'S LARA!
AND SHE'S TANGLING WITH THAT AMATEUR BUY AGAIN!

QUILL? YOU MEAN HE HASN'T BLED TO DEATH YET?
WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE TOUGHEST WOMAN I'VE EVER SEEN!
WHAT'S QUILL'S STORY, LARA? HE CLAIMED TO BE A FRIEND OF YOURS!
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU! GET BACK —
OR I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS!
YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE,
NOW IT'S MY TURN.
ATTITUDE.
DON'T YOU LOVE IT?
TWO?
ONE... FOR EACH OF US?

FINALLY.
HOMB.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE —
— WITHOUT ME!


UN —
— BE —
— LIEVABLE!
WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT I DO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR PEOPLE!
YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT LARA?
BOTH OF 'EM?
TURN THIS CRATE AROUND AND TAKE US BACK NOW!


I THINK
— NOT
UNTIL YOU CAN FLY THIS CRAFT, WE GO WHERE I SAY.
NOT SURE HOW YOU DID THAT BUT I BET YOU SAVE A FORTUNE ON MAKE-UP.
I'M CARONNE.
BUT THIS GUN IS YOUR NAVIGATOR AND IT SAYS WE'RE GOING HOME.
AND WE'LL GO HOME, ALL RIGHT.
MY HOME!

BACK OFF!
WHUD
DEEEGIT
IDIOT!
YOU'RE IN SO FAR OVER YOUR HEAD THAT YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY GRASP WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
THANKS TO YOU --
AUTOLAND
TAKE
-- NEITHER ONE OF US WILL SURVIVE THE HOUR!

AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT -
-- SHE MIGHT BE RIGHT.
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE

SCRIPT
DAN JURGENS

PENCILS
ANDY PARK

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL, CRIME LAB STUDIOS,
AND KEVIN CONRAD

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
AND DENNIS HEISLER

COVER PENCILS
ANDY PARK

COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

WHOA! THAT'S ONE HELLUVA SPREAD, GUILL!
LIKE SOMETHIN' OUTTA A BOND MOVIE!
GUESS THAT MAKES YOU A REGULAR GOLDFINGER OR SUMTHIN'!
HARDLY.
QUICKLY, LAND HERE. WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME.
WHOA. I BET ONE OF HIS BATHROOMS IS WORTH MORE THAN MY WHOLE CONDO!
EACH SPECIALLY DESIGNED, GOLD PLATED TOILET DOES THAT, STYLES.
ANY CHANCE YOU FOLKS CAN STOP FUSSIN' 'BOUT INTERIOR DESIGN?
IT'S LAURA WE OUGHTA BE WORRIED ABOUT!
INDEED.
IF WE DO NOT ACT SOON, WE MIGHT VERY WELL NEVER RECOVER HER.

RECOVER?!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE SHE'S DEAD!
AND HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND HER BY LOUNGING AROUND A PALACE IN THE SWISS ALPS?
PATIENCE.
TO LOCATE A PARTICULAR STAR, ONE MUST USE THE PROPER TELESCOPE.
HOW DOES A TELESCOPE DO US ANY GOOD?
CATCH THE SLED OVER THERE, IT'S ROSEBUD FROM CITIZEN KANE!
THIS --
THIS... THIS IS A REMBRANDT! AND IT'S AN ORIGINAL!
-- IS THE TELESCOPE WE NEED.
NOT WHERE.
THAT MAGIC EIGHT BALL IS GOING TO TELL YOU WHERE LARA IS?
WHEN.

Pieces of
ZERO
Part IV of IV

ANYONE CARE TO EXPLAIN THIS TO ME?

AM I BEING ARRESTED?

IF SO, FOR WHAT?

MY CLOTHES MAY CLASH WITH THIS HIGH TECH SENSIBILITY OF YOURS, BUT THAT CAN'T BE A CRIME, CAN IT?

NO, BUT VIOLATING THE DIRECTIVES OF THE TEMPORAL AUTHORITY IS.

THE FUGITIVES, DIRECTOR REDSTONE. THEIR SHIP MATERIALIZED A FEW MINUTES AGO.

TWO OF THEM? I EXPECTED ONLY ONE.

WHICH PROVES I'M HERE BY MISTAKE. TIME TO CUT ME LOOSE!

NOT WHEN YOU AND YOUR BOSS ARE IN VIOLATION OF TIME CODE 369.

BOSS?! SHE'S NOT MY BOSS!

SHE'S RIGHT, REDSTONE! SHE'S THE ONE WHO DRAGGED ME ALONG ON THIS WILD ESCAPADE!

INTERESTING. I ALWAYS DOUBTED YOU WORKED ALONE, CARONNE.

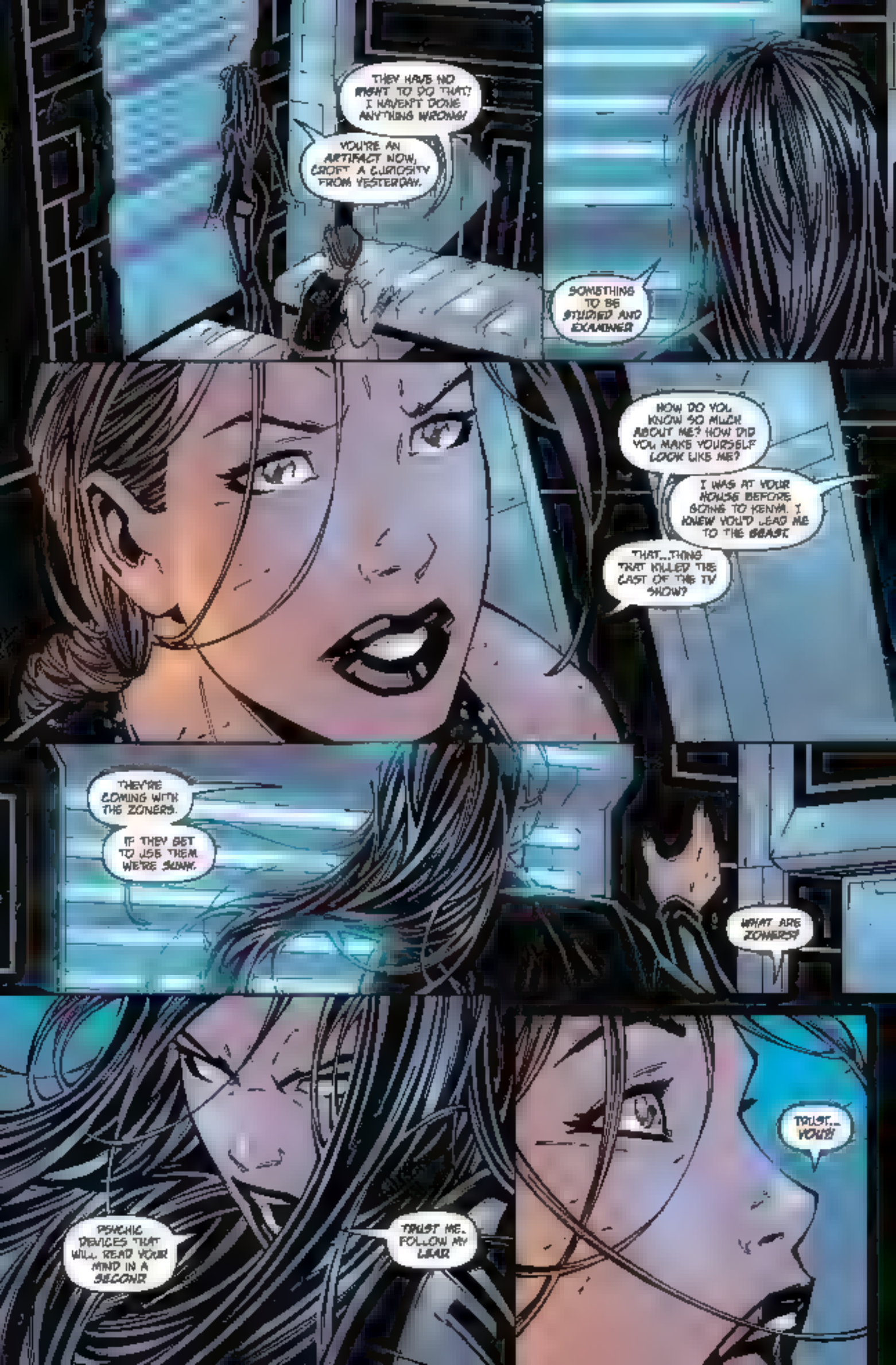
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

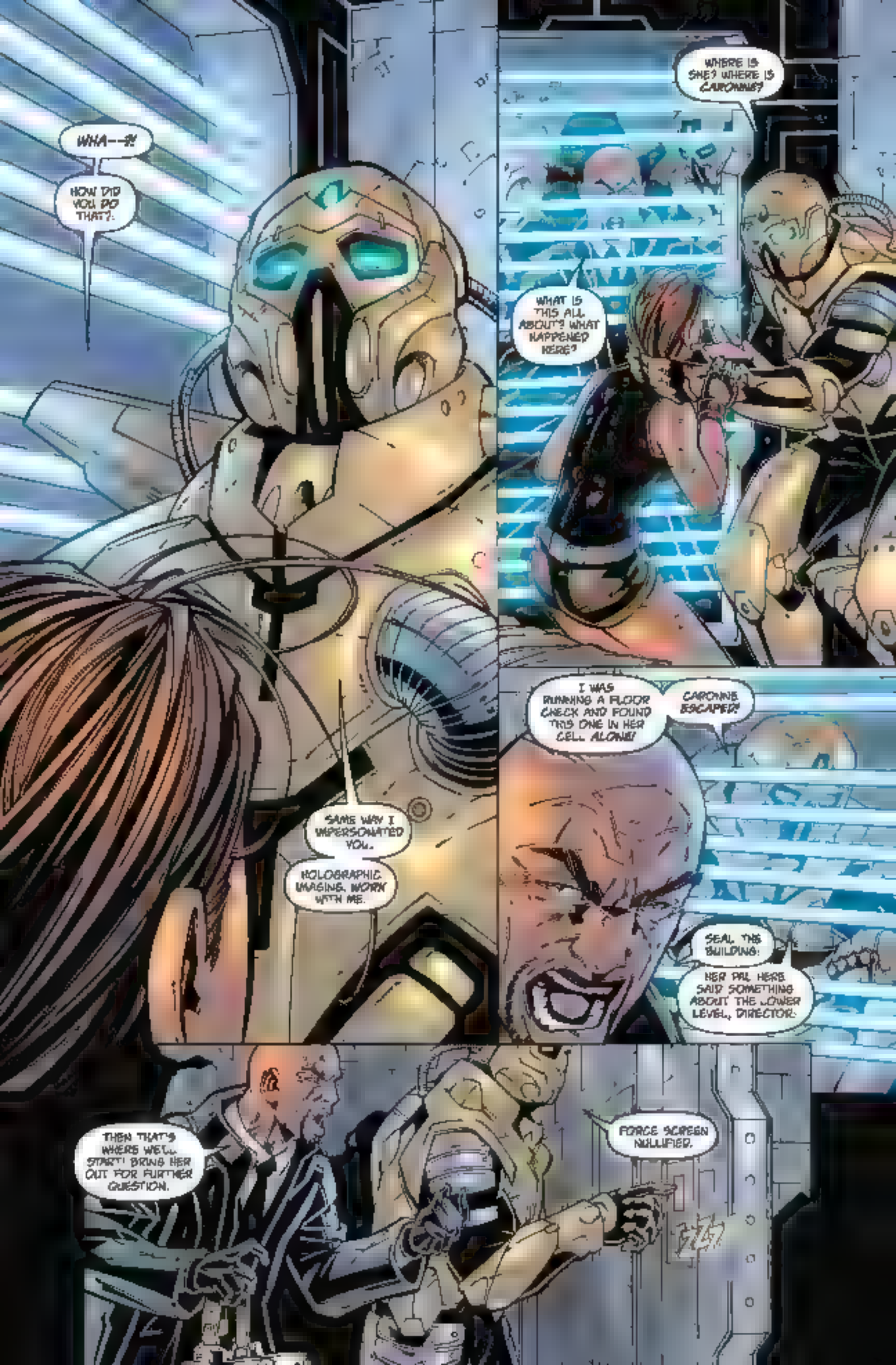
YOUR CLOTHING SAYS OTHERWISE.

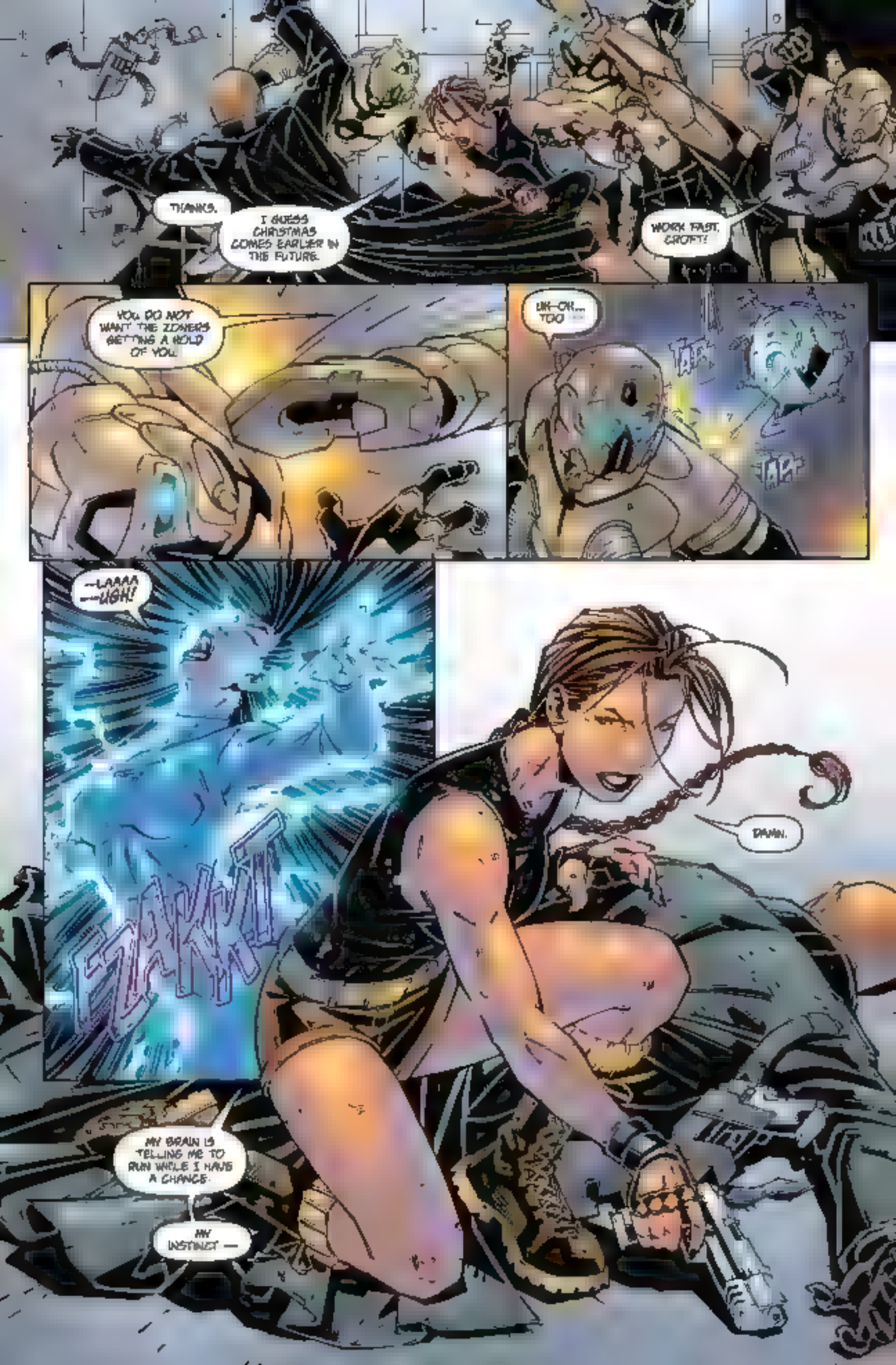
MAYBE SO, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE JUMPING TO THE RIGHT CONCLUSIONS.
I'LL GET MY ANSWERS IN TIME.
I ALREADY KNOW THE HIGHLIGHTS.
I'M NOT SURE WHERE YOU FIT INTO THE EQUATION, BUT YOU WERE OBVIOUSLY IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY!
A VIOLATION CARRYING A MAXIMUM SENTENCE.
OUR FRIENDLY TREASURE HUNTER CARONNE BROKE INTO A TEMPORAL AUTHORITY HANGAR AND STOLE A TIME JUMPER.
WE TRACKED HER TO THE PAST BUT SHE USED CAMOUFLAGING TECHNOLOGY TO EVADE US.
THANKS, CARONNE.
THANKS A BLOODY LOT.
INTO THE CHAMBERS WITH THEM! LET THEM STEW UNTIL THE ZONERS ARE READY!

SO,
INTERESTING GAME YOU'RE PLAYING HERE
YOU'RE THE GUILTY ONE, NOT ME.
WHY DRAG ME DOWN WITH YOU?
FINE.
DON'T SAY A WORD.
ONCE THEY COME BACK WITH THOSE...WHAT DID THEY CALL THEM?
ZOMBIES.
I'LL TELL THEM EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED SO YOU HANG INSTEAD OF ME.
CAN YOU TRULY BE THIS STUPID?
DON'T YOU SEE THAT IF NOT FOR ME YOU'D BE IN EVEN WORSE TROUBLE?

RIGHT.
I'LL BET THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL, TOO.
CROFT, IF THEY HAD ANY IDEA YOU WERE THREW FROM THE PAST, THEY'D STUFF YOU AND PUT YOU IN A MUSEUM.
WHY?
TRAVELING THROUGH TIME IS SERIOUS, SERIOUS BUSINESS.
THERE ARE SOME RULES YOU JUST DON'T BREAK.
I TOLD THEM YOU WERE WORKING WITH ME SO THEY GO EASIER ON BOTH OF US.
NO CRIME IS BIGGER THAN DOING SOMETHING THAT COULD CHANGE HISTORY.
BRINGING YOU BACK IS EXACTLY THAT.
YOU'VE SEEN THE FUTURE, CROFT.
THEY'LL NEVER LET YOU GO BACK.
HOW SO?

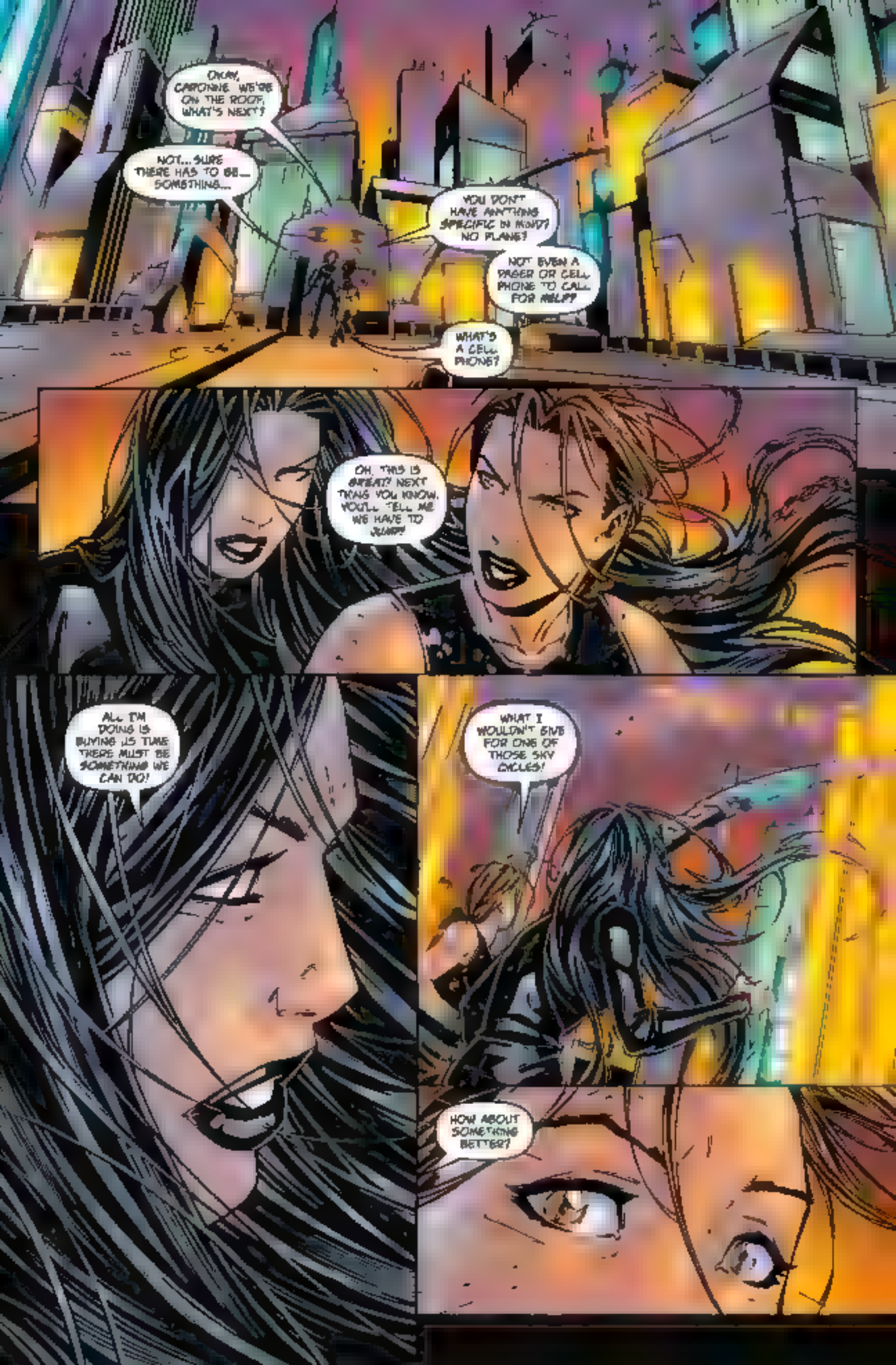

THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO THAT! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!
YOU'RE AN ARTIFACT NOW, CROFT A CURIOSITY FROM YESTERDAY.
SOMETHING TO BE STUDIED AND EXAMINED
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME? HOW DID YOU MAKE YOURSELF LOOK LIKE ME?
I WAS AT YOUR HOUSE BEFORE GOING TO KENYA. I KNEW YOU'D LEAD ME TO THE BEAST.
THAT...THING THAT KILLED THE CAST OF THE TV SHOW?
THEY'RE COMING WITH THE ZONERS.
IF THEY GET TO USS THEM. WE'RE SUNK.
WHAT ARE ZONERS?
PSYCHIC DEVICES THAT WILL READ YOUR MIND IN A SECOND
TRUST ME. FOLLOW MY LEAD
TRUST... YOU?!


WHERE IS SHE? WHERE IS CARONNE?
WHA--?!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT? WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
I WAS RUNNING A FLOOR CHECK AND FOUND THIS ONE IN HER CELL ALONE!
CARONNE ESCAPED?
SAME WAY I IMPERSONATED YOU.
HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGING. WORK WITH ME.
SEAL THE BUILDING!
HER PAL HERE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE LOWER LEVEL, DIRECTOR.
THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'LL START! BRING HER OUT FOR FURTHER QUESTION.
FORCE SCREEN NULLIFIED.

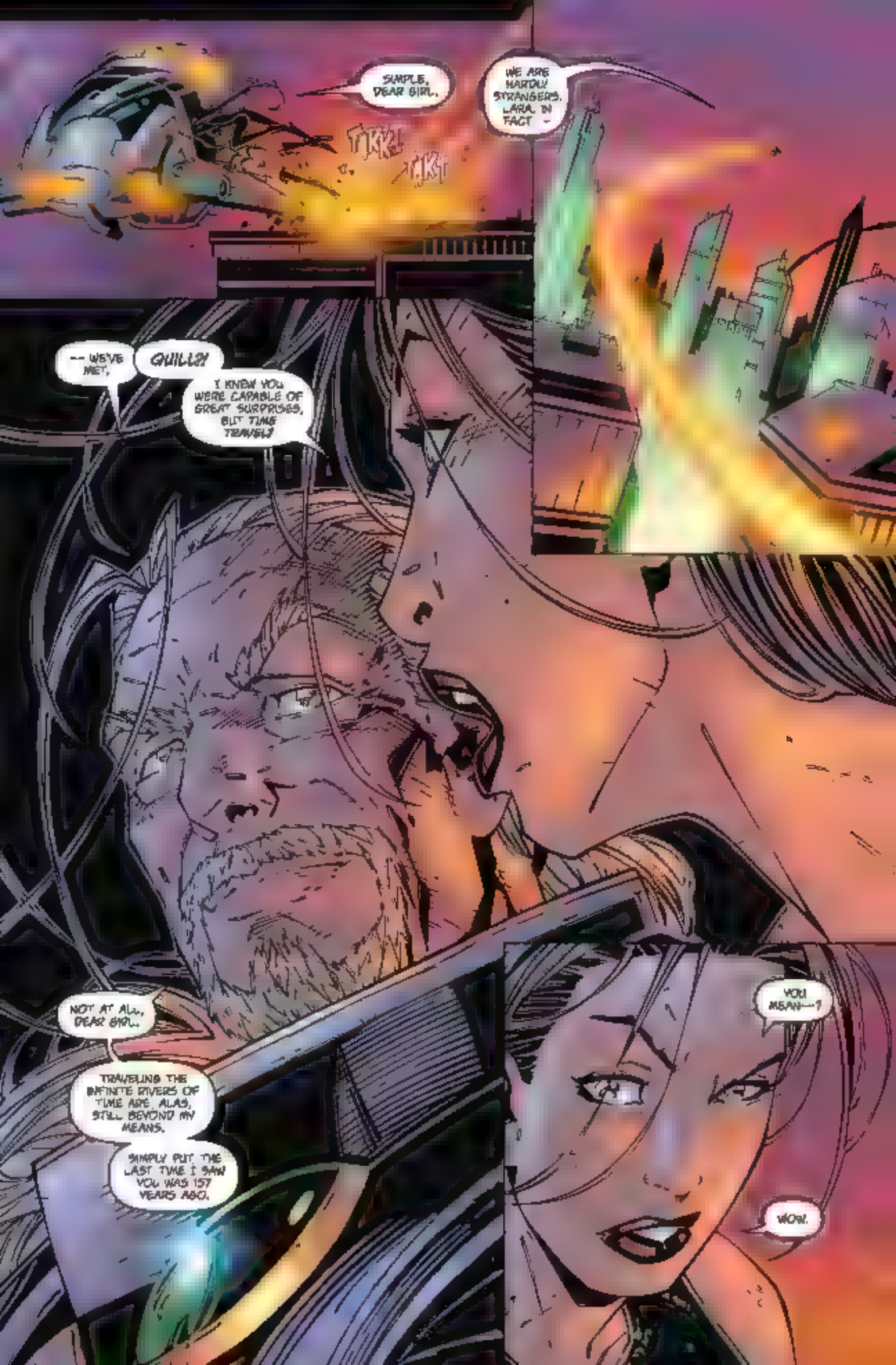

THANKS.
I GUESS CHRISTMAS COMES EARLIER IN THE FUTURE.
WORK FAST, CROFT!
YOU DO NOT WANT THE ZONERS GETTING A HOLD OF YOU.
UH-OH... TOO
TAP
TAP
--LAAAA --UGH!
DAMN.
MY BRAIN IS TELLING ME TO RUN WHILE I HAVE A CHANCE.
MY INSTINCT —

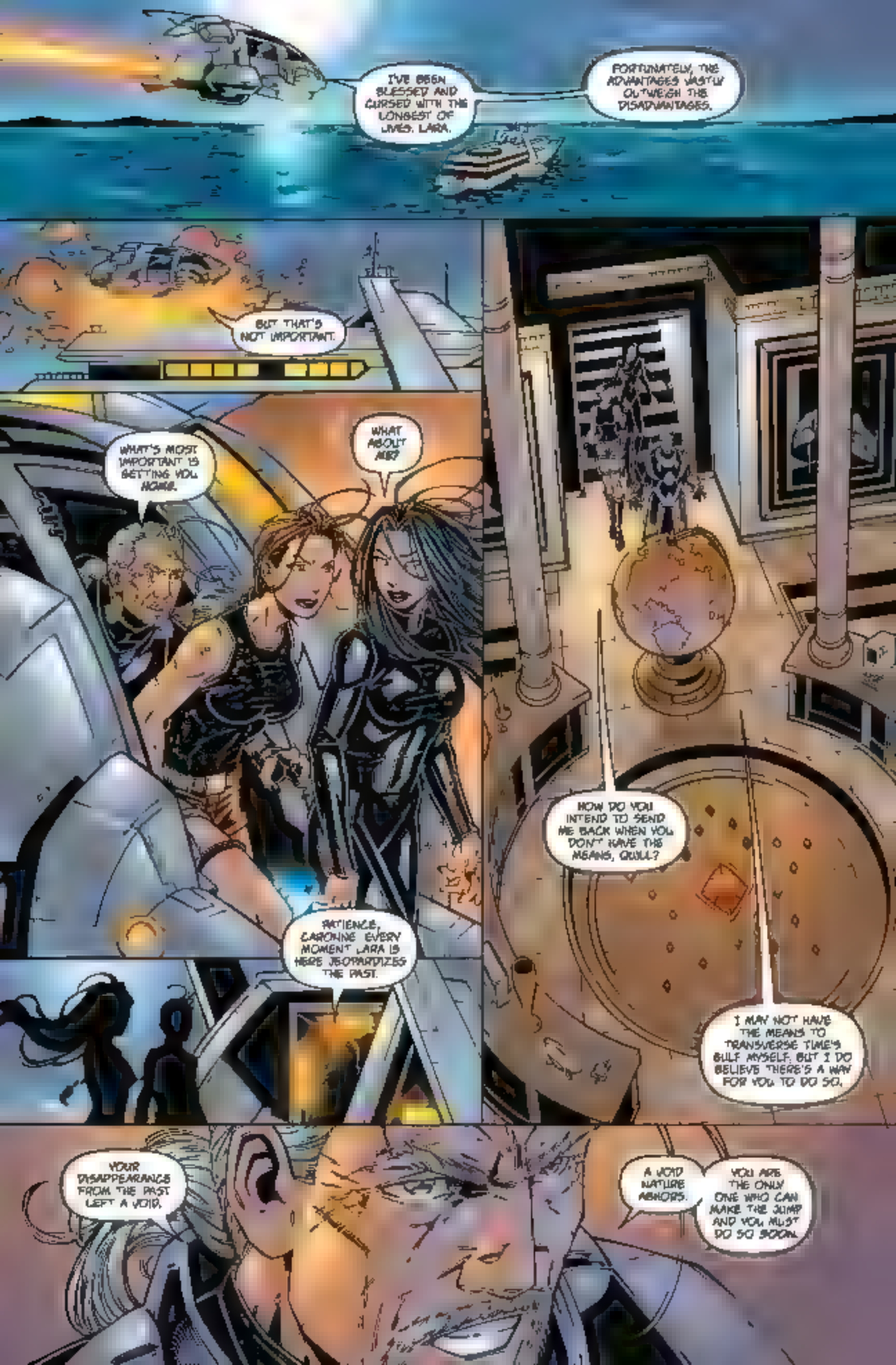
IS TELLING ME OTHERWISE
BAMM BDAMM
C'MON, MY TURN --
-- TO HELP YOU!
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN? WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
UP.
THE ROOF.

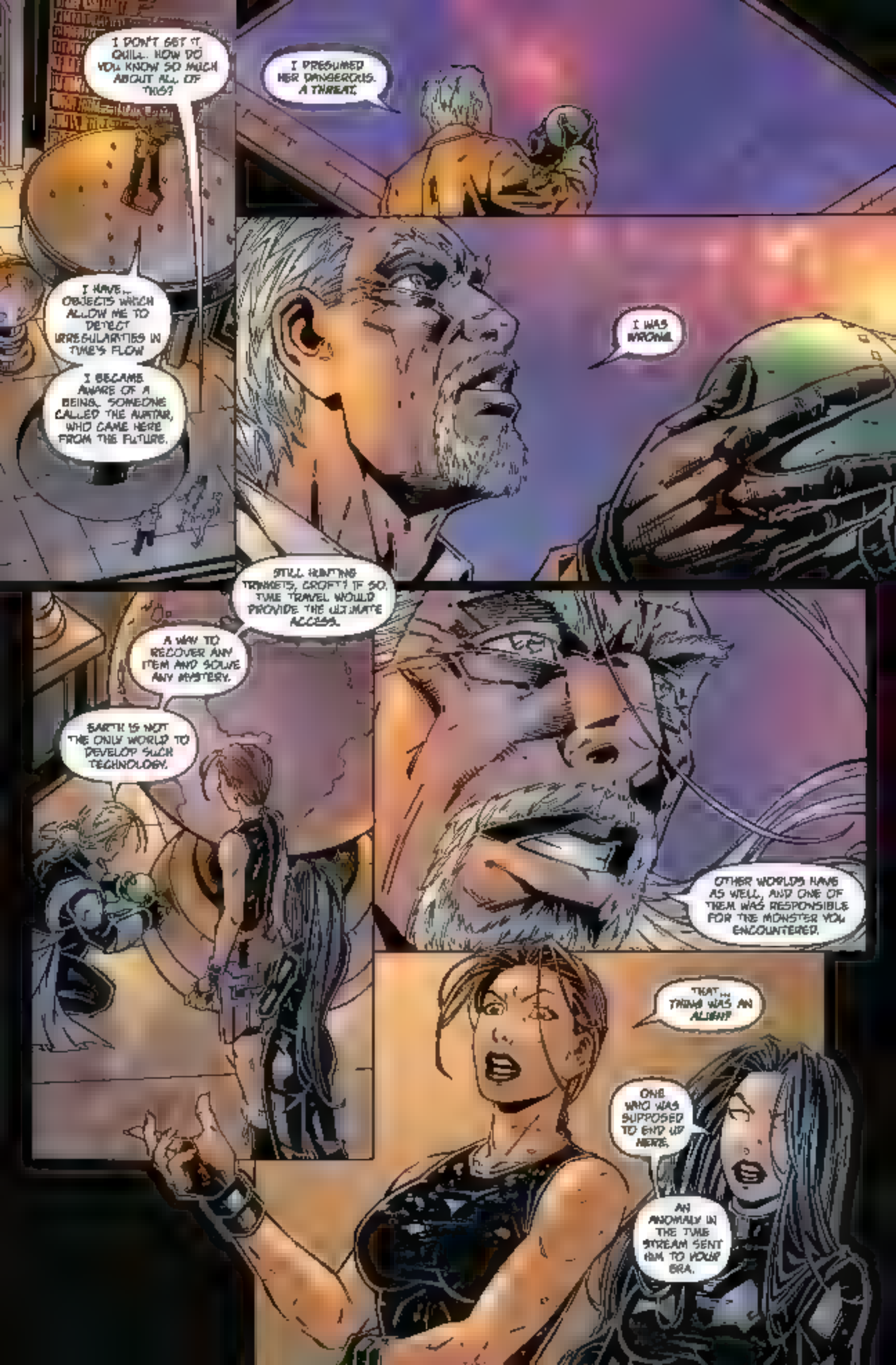
I BELIEVE LARA IS STILL ON EARTH, THOUGH NOT IN THE PRESENT.
I BELIEVE HER TO BE IN THE FUTURE...TEN, FIFTY, PERHAPS HUNDREDS OF YEARS FROM NOW.
GET OUTTA HERE!
THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE, IS IT?
HANG AROUND LARA LONG ENOUGH AND YOU'LL FIND OUT ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE, ALISSIA.
DUDE. THE PROSPECTS OF OUR SHOW PULLING RECORD RATINGS ARE SOARING!
WOULD YOU SHUT YOUR PIE HOLE AND THINK OF LARA'S WELFARE FOR A CHANGE, STYLES?
YOU GOT LOTS OF DEAD PEOPLE ON YOUR HANDS, STYLES; THINK OF THEM FOR A CHANGE!
I FEAR THERE IS FAR MORE AT STAKE THAN MS. CROFT'S WELFARE.
IN FACT, THIS EYE OF SHAHEROTTIN WILL
BY THE GATES OF HELL!
I...NEVER SUSPECTED—!

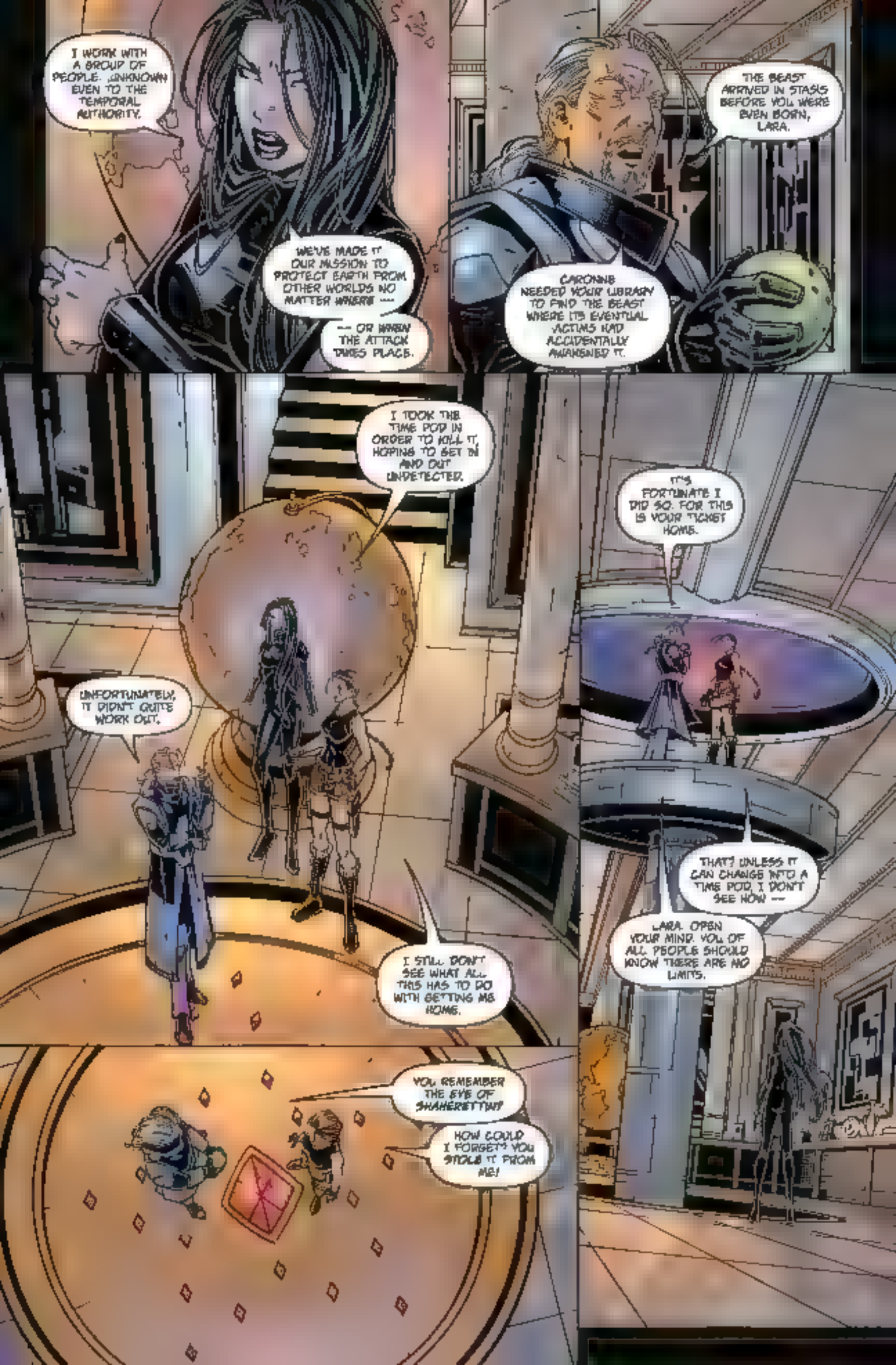

OKAY, CAPONNE. WE'RE ON THE ROOF. WHAT'S NEXT?
NOT... SURE THERE HAS TO BE... SOMETHING...
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND? NO PLANE?
NOT EVEN A PAGER OR CELL PHONE TO CALL FOR HELP?
WHAT'S A CELL PHONE?
OH, THIS IS GREAT! NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU'LL TELL ME WE HAVE TO JUMP!
ALL I'M DOING IS BUYING US TIME. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO!
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR ONE OF THOSE SKY CYCLES!
HOW ABOUT SOMETHING BETTER?

WHOA.
HURRY!
NICE TIMING. FRIENDS OF YOURS?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THIS IS!
HERE. LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD, LARA.
YOU KNOW ME?
THESE MUST BE ANTIGUES HERE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME?
BAMM
BDAM


SIMPLE, DEAR GIRL.
WE ARE HARDLY STRANGERS, LARA. IN FACT --
TIKK! TIKK!
-- WE'VE MET,
QUILL?!
I KNEW YOU WERE CAPABLE OF GREAT SURPRISES, BUT TIME TRAVEL?
NOT AT ALL, DEAR GIRL.
TRAVELING THE INFINITE RIVERS OF TIME ARE, ALAS, STILL BEYOND MY MEANS.
SIMPLY PUT, THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS 157 YEARS AGO.
YOU MEAN---?
WOW.


I'VE BEEN BLESSED AND CURSED WITH THE LONGEST OF LIVES, LARA.
FORTUNATELY, THE ADVANTAGES VASTLY OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES.
BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT.
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS GETTING YOU HOME.
WHAT ABOUT ALEC?
PATIENCE, CARONNE EVERY MOMENT LARA IS HERE JEOPARDIZES THE PAST.
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO SEND ME BACK WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE MEANS, QUULL?
I MAY NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO TRANSVERSE TIME'S GULF MYSELF. BUT I DO BELIEVE THERE'S A WAY FOR YOU TO DO SO.
YOUR DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE PAST LEFT A VOID.
A VOID NATURE ABHORS.
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE THE JUMP AND YOU MUST DO SO SOON.


I DON'T GET IT, QUILL. HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ALL OF THIS?
I PRESUMED HER DANGEROUS. A THREAT.
I HAVE... OBJECTS WHICH ALLOW ME TO DETECT IRREGULARITIES IN TIME'S FLOW.
I BECAME AWARE OF A BEING, SOMEONE CALLED THE AVATAR, WHO CAME HERE FROM THE FUTURE.
I WAS WRONG.
STILL HUNTING TRINKETS, CROFT? IF SO, TIME TRAVEL WOULD PROVIDE THE ULTIMATE ACCESS.
A WAY TO RECOVER ANY ITEM AND SOLVE ANY MYSTERY.
EARTH IS NOT THE ONLY WORLD TO DEVELOP SUCH TECHNOLOGY.
OTHER WORLDS HAVE AS WELL, AND ONE OF THEM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MONSTER YOU ENCOUNTERED.
THAT... THING WAS AN ALIEN?
ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO END UP HERE.
AN ANOMALY IN THE TIME STREAM SENT HIM TO YOUR ERA.


I WORK WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE. UNKNOWN EVEN TO THE TEMPORAL AUTHORITY.
WE'VE MADE IT OUR MISSION TO PROTECT EARTH FROM OTHER WORLDS NO MATTER WHERE ---
-- OR WHEN THE ATTACK TAKES PLACE.
THE BEAST ARRIVED IN STASIS BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN BORN, LARA.
CARONNE NEEDED YOUR LIBRARY TO FIND THE BEAST WHERE ITS EVENTUAL VICTIMS HAD ACCIDENTALLY AWAKENED IT.
I TOOK THE TIME POD IN ORDER TO KILL IT, HOPING TO GET IN AND OUT UNDETECTED.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT DIDN'T QUITE WORK OUT.
IT'S FORTUNATE I DID SO. FOR THIS IS YOUR TICKET HOME.
THAT? UNLESS IT CAN CHANGE INTO A TIME POD, I DON'T SEE HOW ---
LARA. OPEN YOUR MIND. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THERE ARE NO LIMITS.
I STILL DON'T SEE WHAT ALL THIS HAS TO DO WITH GETTING ME HOME.
YOU REMEMBER THE EYE OF SHAHERETTIN?
HOW COULD I FORGET? YOU STOLE IT FROM ME!

THINK OF THE EYE AS A CHAIN, WITH ONE END HERE IN THE FUTURE --
-- AND THE OTHER END IN THE PAST.
THE TIME STREAM WILL SERVE AS THE LINKS IN THE CHAIN TO GUIDE YOU BACK.
THE EYE HAS ALLOWED ME TO SEE BEYOND TOMORROW.
IT WILL ALLOW YOU TO SEE YESTERDAY, AND FIND IT.
YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT. AS THOUGH YOU KNOW THIS WILL WORK.
OF COURSE, LARA. AFTER ALL, THIS IS HOW I REMEMBER IT.
NOW, LARA.
COME BACK TO WHERE YOU BELONG.

IT WORKED!
GET OUTTA TOWN!
THIS HAS GOT TO BE A TRICK OF SOME KIND!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU BELIEVE, SO MUCH THE BETTER.
THIS TALE IS ONE NEVER TO BE REPEATED.
AGREED.
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! NO ONE WOULD LET THIS STORY BE UNTOLD!
SHADDUP AND DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD, SKIPPY!
UH-UH! I WANT AN EXPLANATION!
I WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED AND WHERE YOU WERE!
IT'S LIKE YOU THOUGHT, STYLES. A TRICK.
AS FOR WHAT TO TELL PEOPLE .. WELL, YOU WORK IN TELEVISION.
DO WHAT YOU ALWAYS DO.
MAKE SOMETHING UP.

JUST DON'T EXPECT ME TO COOPERATE.
THE END.

THE TRAP: PATH OF THE TIGER PART 1

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
RANDY GREEN

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH, CHAD FIDLER,
MARK SWEENEY, AND JAMES BROWN

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
AND DENNIS HESELDEN

COVER PENCILS
RANDY GREEN

COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

TAKTSANG RAVINE.
NOW.
WE CALL THE HIMALAYAS THE ROOF OF THE WORLD.
AND NO WONDER...
YOU CAN'T GET ANY CLOSER TO THE INFINITE THAN THIS...
WITHOUT DYING ONCE OR TWICE.
CLIMBING HERE...
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH YOU'VE ENTERED ANOTHER WORLD.
YOU HAVE.
ENTERED ANOTHER WORLD...
SO HARSH. AND SO BEAUTIFUL.
SO DISTANT FROM THE WHIRLWIND OF DISTRACTIONS THAT THE WORLD BELOW CALLS LIFE.
DREAMS CAN BE MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN THE MOUNTAINS THEMSELVES, HERE.

HERE ...

SHE'S MORE REAL THAN I AM.

HELLO...

PERHAPS EVEN MORE REAL.

I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING.

CROFT MANOR.
ONE WEEK AGO.
SKK
WHERE IS SHE?
MISS CROFT?
ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.
SKK
PROCEED TO THE LEFT UNTIL YOU REACH THE KITCHEN. TAKE THE SERVICE LIFT DOWN ONE FLOOR. TO THE UNDERCLUB...
YOU WILL FIND MISS CROFT THERE. SWIMMING...
OR FEEDING THE CAT.
SKK

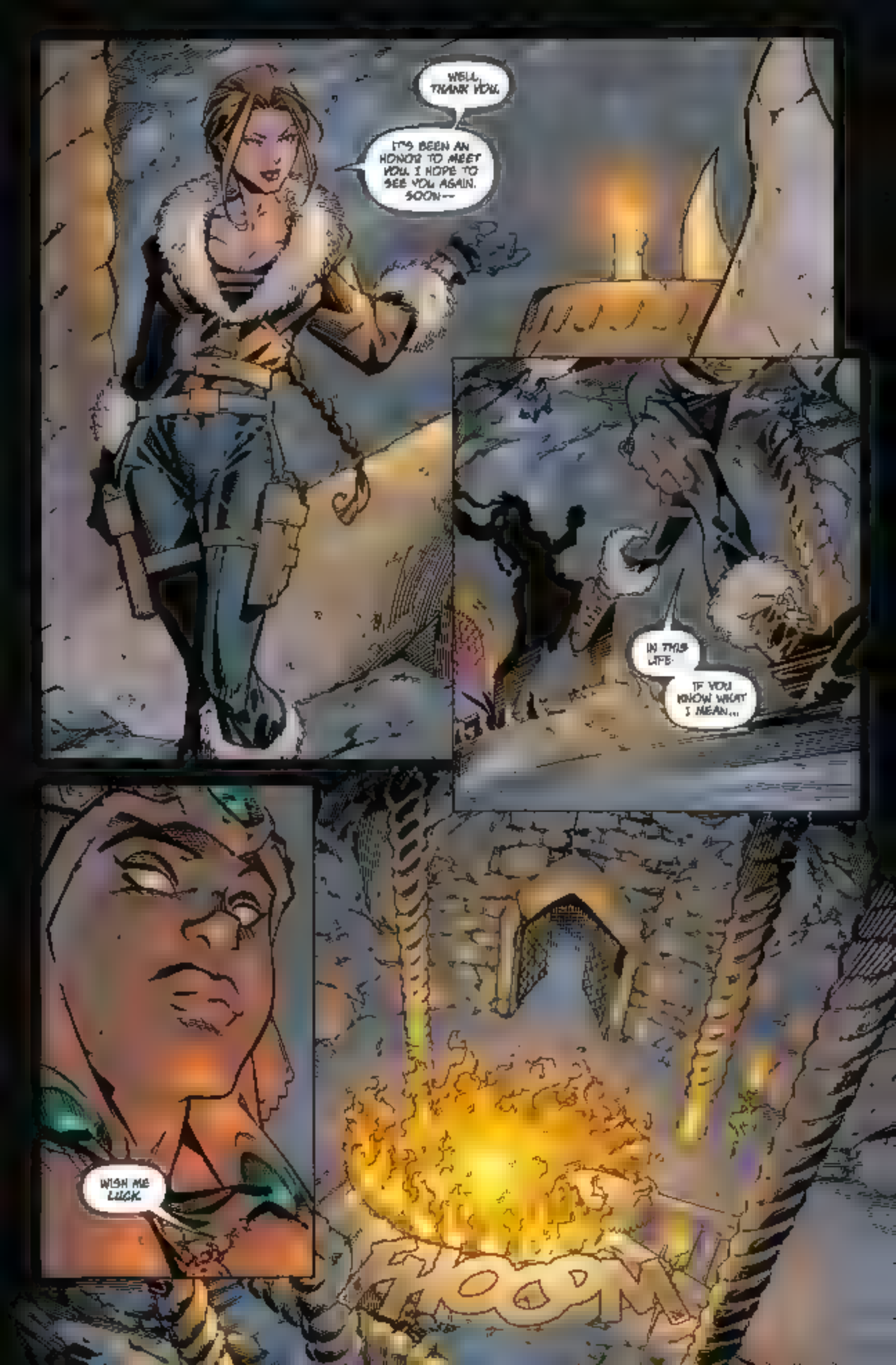
HUSH, BRISHKIN.
I'LL FEED YOU IN A MOMENT.
IN THE HALL OF DUST KEEPS WATCH THE--
BROKEN ONE? DIVIDING ONE?
DRAT.
KTANKATANKATANK
KTANKATANKATANK
FREEZE!
HANDS CLEAR OF YOUR WEAPONS --

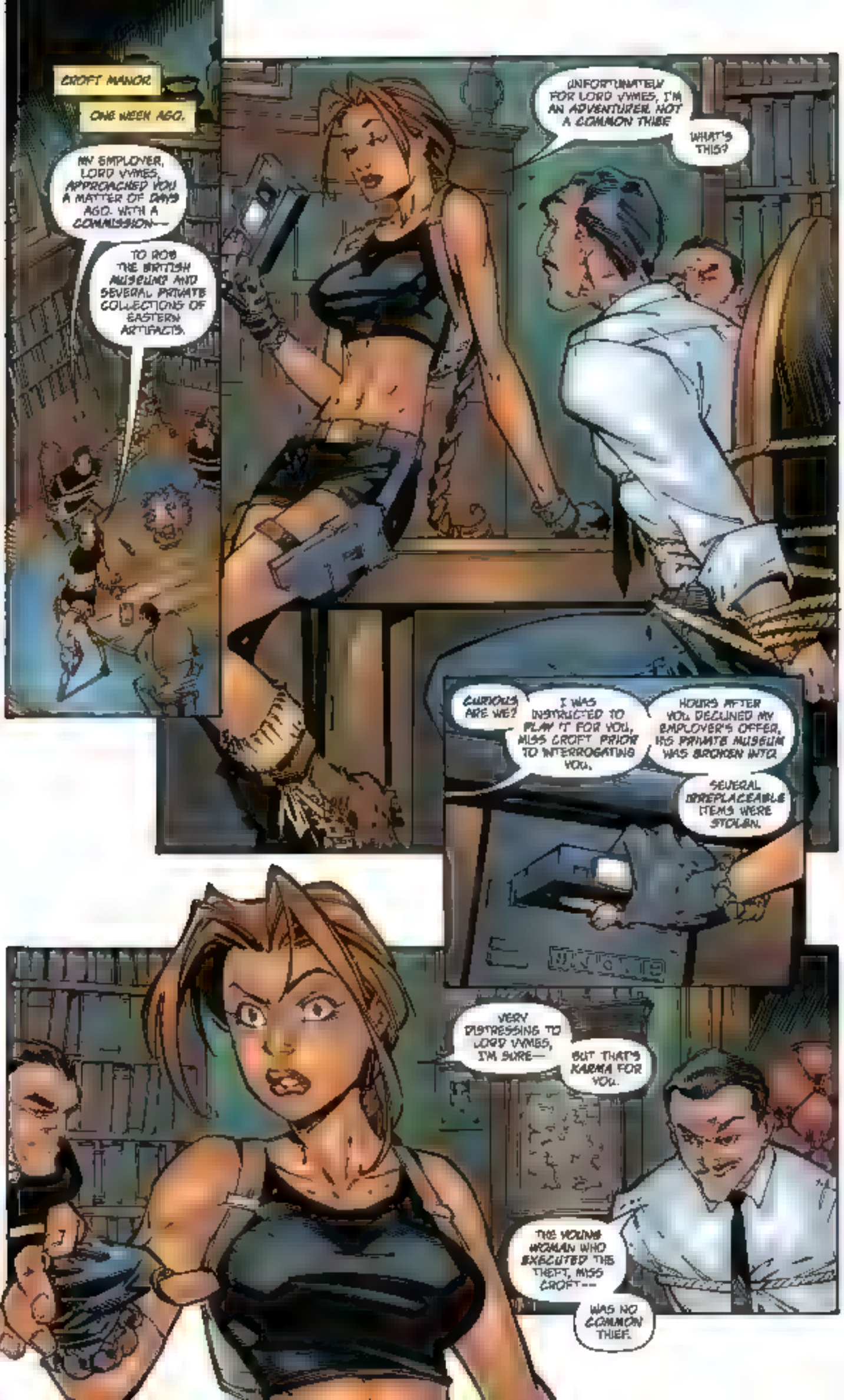
GRISHKIN DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH I'M AFRAID.

I'D ADVISE AGAINST SHOOTING HER.
FOR ONE THING—
A NINE-MILLIMETER SLUG IS JUST POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ENRAGE HER.
SHE'S A MUTANT, AS YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED—
BRED TO TAKE ON WAR ELEPHANTS IS MY CURRENT HYPOTHESIS.
FOR ANOTHER THING— SHOULD YOU HURT HER—
I'LL LOSE MY TEMPER.
PLACE YOUR WEAPONS ON THE FLOOR, GENTLEMEN—
WITH YOUR COATS, PLEASE—
AND BACK SLOWLY TOWARD THE LIFT.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I BELIEVE I'LL RUN UP TO THE KITCHEN AND FIX US ALL A NICE CUP OF TEA...
WHILE YOU GENTLEMEN DECIDE WHETHER YOU'D RATHER SPILL YOUR GUTS TO ME, OR BRISHKIN.

TAKTSANG RAVINE.
NOW.
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL. AND FIERCE--
QUITE FIERCE, AREN'T YOU?
I EXPECT THE DEMONS MIND THEIR MANNERS WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT
WELL...
SEEING THAT YOU'RE MY KIND OF GIRL --
I WILL, TOO.

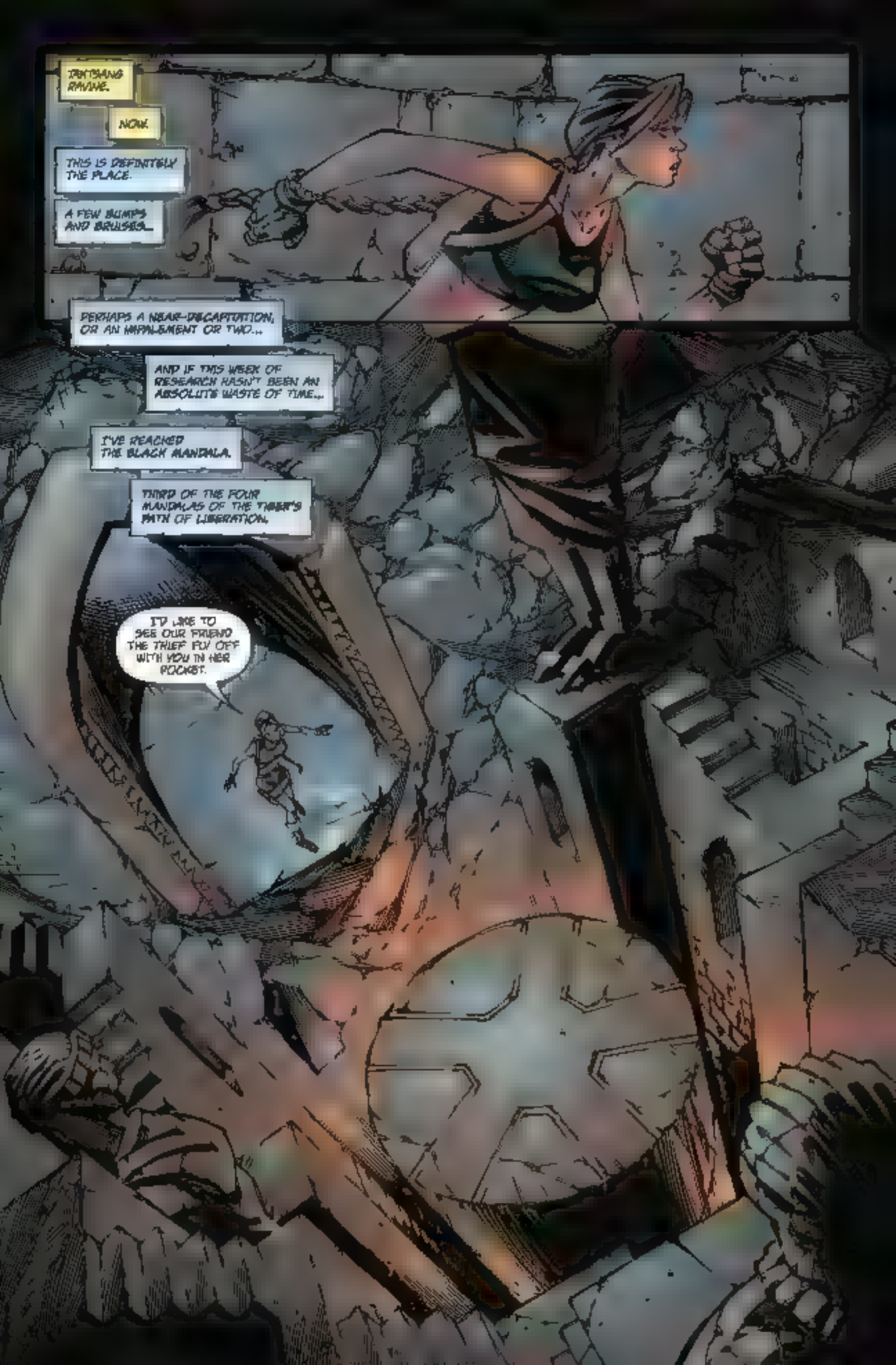
DAKINIS ARE ALWAYS TRAMPLING ON CORPSES.
OHHH!
SYMBOLIC ONES.
DIVINE WISDOM VANQUISHING ILLUSION AND DESIRE...
THEN SHE DANCES ON WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM.
I'VE SEEN HER DO IT A HUNDRED TIMES.
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN—
VANQUISHED ILLUSION AND DESIRE WEAR TECHNO-ORGANIC WINGS.
I BELIEVE I'VE FOUND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
AND I WASN'T EVEN PRAYING.
THANK YOU.

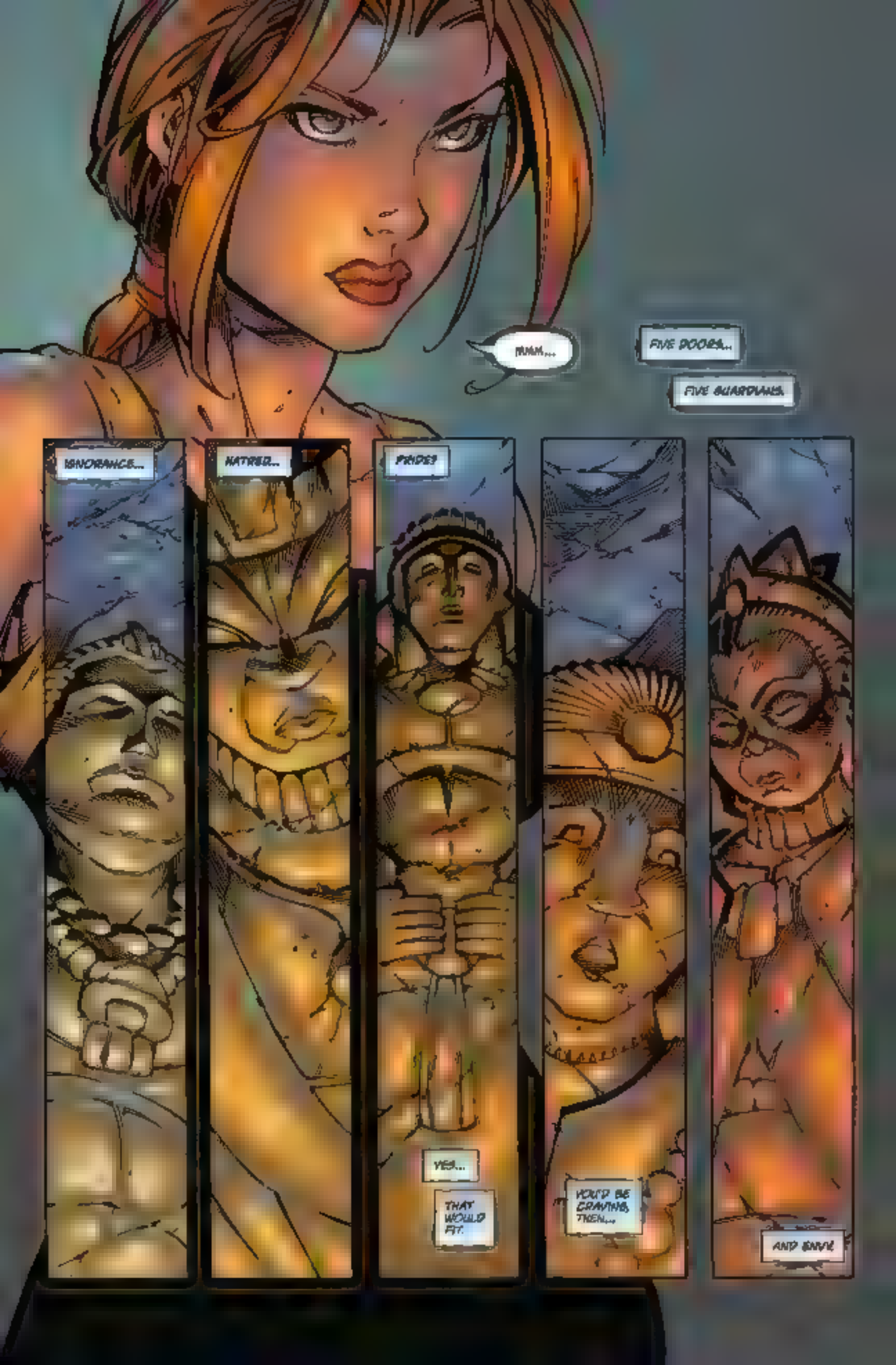

WELL, THANK YOU.
IT'S BEEN AN HONOR TO MEET YOU. I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. SOON--
IN THIS LIFE.
IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...
WISH ME LUCK.
KOOM

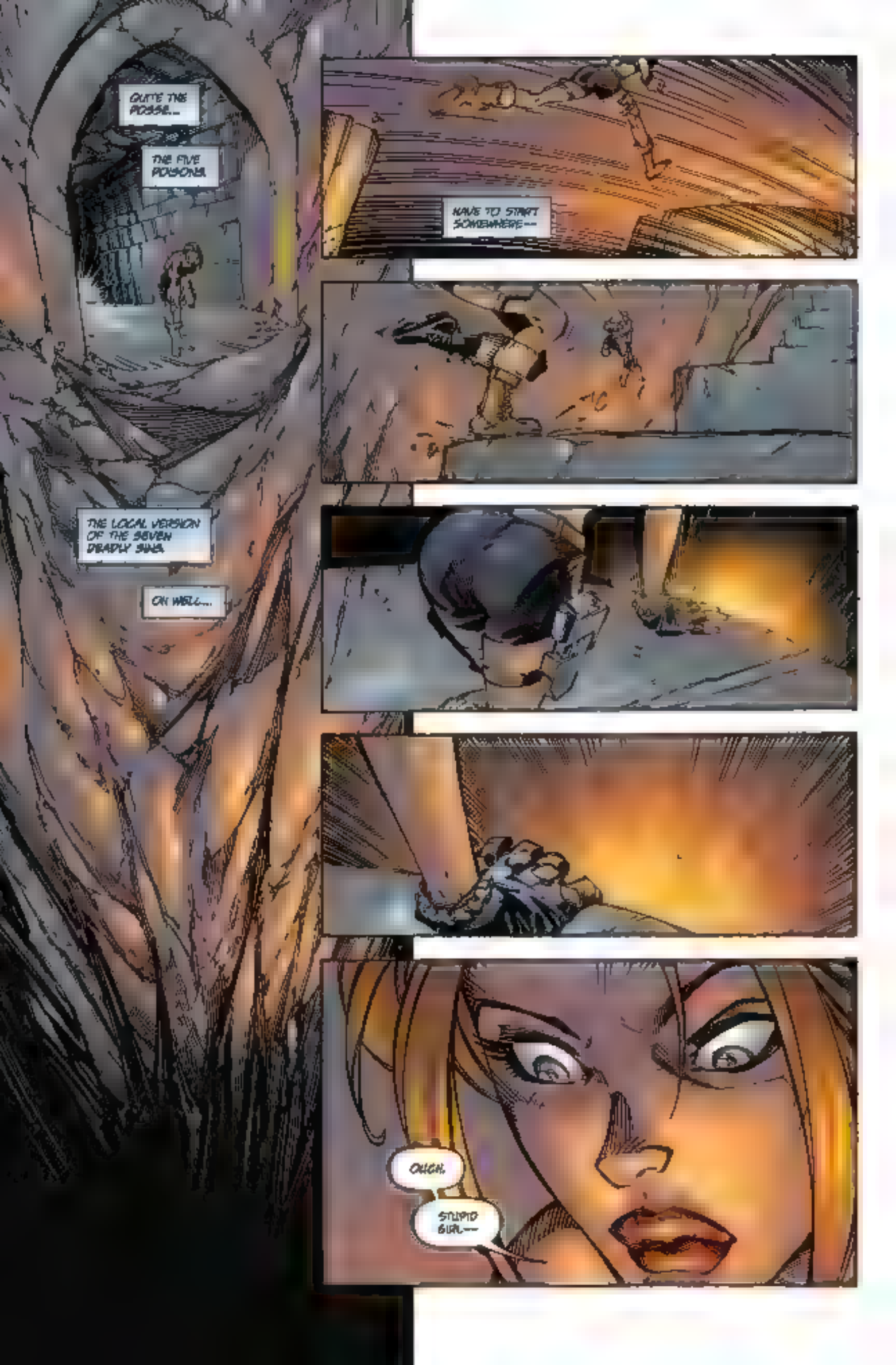

CROFT MANOR.
ONE WEEK AGO.
MY EMPLOYER, LORD VYMES, APPROACHED YOU A MATTER OF DAYS AGO. WITH A COMMISSION—
TO ROB THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND SEVERAL PRIVATE COLLECTIONS OF EASTERN ARTIFACTS.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR LORD VYMES, I'M AN ADVENTURER. NOT A COMMON THIEF.
WHAT'S THIS?
CURIOUS ARE WE?
I WAS INSTRUCTED TO PLAY IT FOR YOU, MISS CROFT PRIOR TO INTERROGATING YOU.
HOURS AFTER YOU DECLINED MY EMPLOYER'S OFFER, HIS PRIVATE MUSEUM WAS BROKEN INTO
SEVERAL IRREPLACEABLE ITEMS WERE STOLEN.
VERY DISTRESSING TO LORD VYMES, I'M SURE—
BUT THAT'S KARMA FOR YOU.
THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO EXECUTED THE THEFT, MISS CROFT—
WAS NO COMMON THIEF.

SO I SEE.
SHE'S VERY GOOD.
OH PLEASE—
SURELY THERE'S NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY PRETENSE AT THIS POINT?
THERE'S NOT A WOMAN ALIVE WHO COULD'VE DEVISED SUCH A DARING PLAN—
OR EXECUTED IT SO FLAWLESSLY.
APART FROM YOURSELF, MISS CROFT.

WHAT, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
LARA CROFT LOOKALIKES ARE ALL THE RAGE, THESE DAYS.
JUST LAST MONTH—
PUNF
I MET THE MOST OBNOXIOUS SHAPECHANGER—
VERY SKETCHY OBSERVATION ON YOUR PART, MISTER ADAMS.
MUMBLE
THERE ARE A FEW POINTS OF RESEMBLANCE CERTAINLY—
BUT YOUR THIEF'S STYLE IS NOTHING LIKE MY OWN.
TELL LORD VYMES THAT I'LL FIND OUT WHO ROBBED HIM...
AND RETRIEVE HIS STOLEN JEWELS.
ASSUMING HE CAN PROVE THAT THEY WERE LEGITIMATELY ACQUIRED.
FOR AN APOLOGY...
AND TWO MILLION POUNDS.


TENTSANG RINPHE.
NOW.
THIS IS DEFINITELY THE PLACE.
A FEW BUMPS AND BRUISES...
PERHAPS A NEAR-DECAPITATION, OR AN IMPALEMENT OR TWO...
AND IF THIS WEEK OF RESEARCH HASN'T BEEN AN ABSOLUTE WASTE OF TIME...
I'VE REACHED THE BLACK MANDALA.
THIRD OF THE FOUR MANDALAS OF THE TIGER'S PATH OF LIBERATION.
I'D LIKE TO SEE OUR FRIEND THE THIEF FLY OFF WITH YOU IN HER POCKET.


MMM...
FIVE DOORS...
FIVE GUARDIANS.
IGNORANCE...
HATRED...
PRIDE?
YES...
THAT WOULD FIT.
YOU'D BE CRAVING, THEN...
AND ENVY.


QUITE THE POSSE...
THE FIVE POISONS.
THE LOCAL VERSION OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS.
OH WELL....
HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE—
OUCH.
STUPID GIRL—

UHNNNN!

WHAT DOES ONE DO WHEN THE PATH OF TEMPTATION BECKONS?
-UFF-
I'D SAY WE CAN SAFELY ADD ANOTHER POISON TO THE LIST GENTLEMEN...
RECKLESSNESS...
SNOW WHITE WOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER.
ONE TURNS AWAY

CROFT MANOR.
ONE WEEK AGO.
IF LORD JAMES IS TO BE BELIEVED...
SHE'S QUITE THE CONNOISSEUR, OUR THIEF.
SHE COLLECTS MANTHALAS...
TIBETAN. TENTH CENTURY...
SSSS

KTANG
SO—
IT SEEMS THAT VYMES' THIEF—
IS MY THIEF TONIGHT.

I AM SORRY.
I AM NO THIEF, LARA...
I DON'T KNOW...
YOU SEEM TO FIT THE CLASSIC DESCRIPTION.
MY NEED FOR THE POWER OF THE FOUR MANDALAS FAR OUTWEIGHS YOUR OWN.
WITHOUT IT, MY SISTERS WILL REMAIN FOREVER BOUND WITHIN THE SAMSARA PEARLS...
FOUR MANDALAS?

TAINTSWAMP RAVINE
NOW.
HAH!
AND YOU WOULD BE—
THE TRUE BLACK MANDALA.
HELLO—
FINALLY—
SOMETHING I CAN SHOOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE.
STEP RIGHT UP, GENTLEMEN—
ALLOW ME TO ENLIGHTEN YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED!

JV SMITH
2002

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
RANDY GREEN

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL AND RICK KETCHAM

COLORS
**JONATHAN D. SMITH, CHAD FIDLER,
DENNIS HEISLER, JEREMY ROBERTS,
MARK SWEENEY, AND JAMES BROWN**

LETTERS
**DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
AND DENNIS HEISLER**

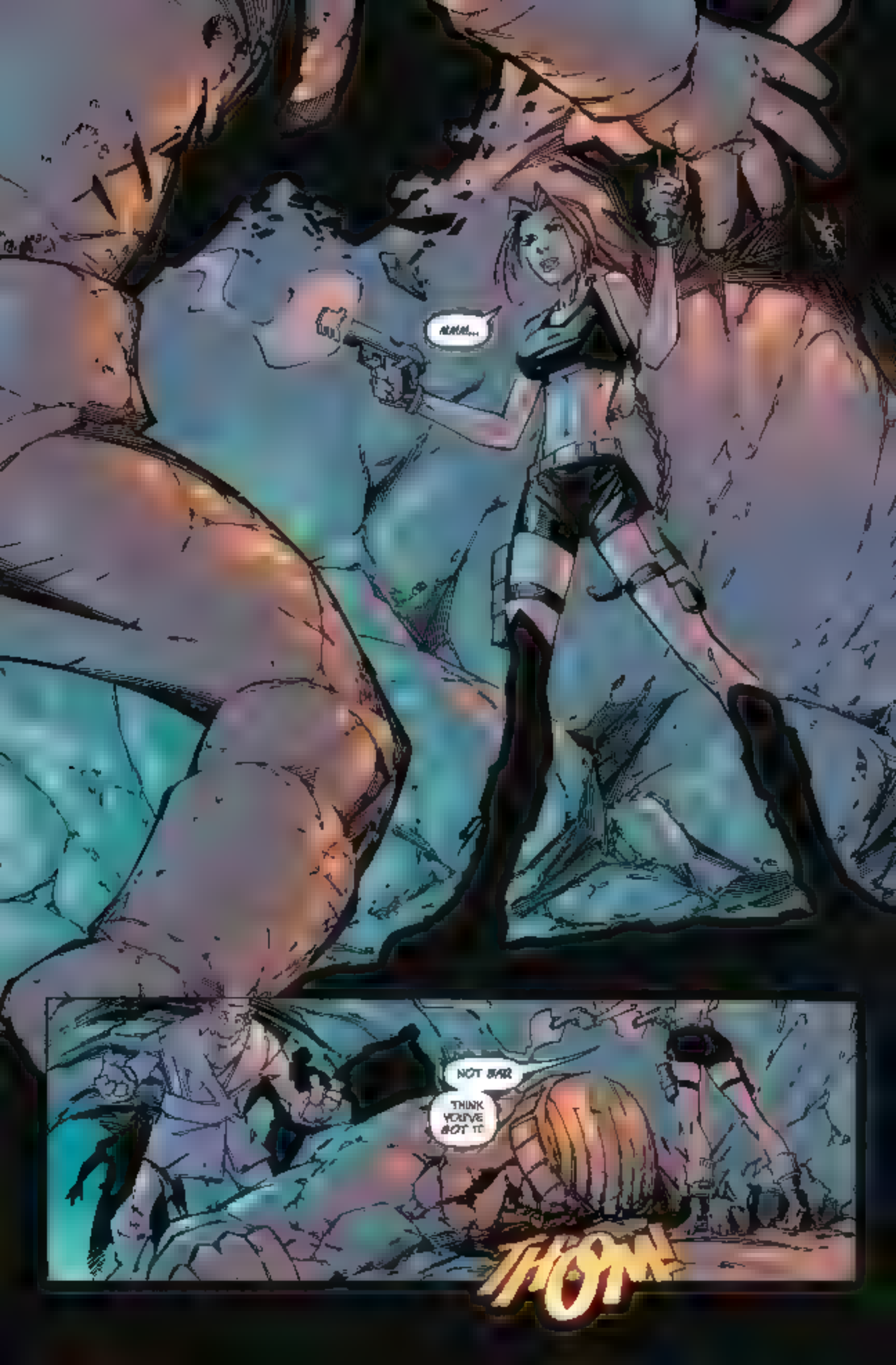
COVER PENCILS
RANDY GREEN

COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

IT SEEMED LIKE THE SIMPLEST WAY TO ARRANGE AN ENCOUNTER WITH MY FRIEND THE THIEF.
I LIVE FOR SIMPLE PLANS.
THEY'LL GET YOU IN SIMPLE TROUBLE EVERY TIME.
ACQUIRE THE BLACK MANDALA...
AND WAIT
LET'S BEGIN WITH A KOOM, SHALL WE?
WHAT'S THE SOUND OF ONE HAND CLAPPING?
CHUK
WRONG.
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM

KLAKKT
KLAKKT
KLAKKT
KLAKKT
KRAK
BUT THAT'S HARDLY SHOCKING, IS IT?
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
IF YOU ARE IGNORANCE
KRAKKT
KRAKKT
KRAKKT
KRAKKT
KRAKKT
KRAKKT
KRAKKT
TRY ANOTHER.
WHAT DID YOUR FACE LOOK LIKE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN?
KKK-KKKKTT KRK


NOT BAR
THINK YOU'VE GOT IT
THOM

BATH, ENGLAND.
VYMES HALL.
AND THIS CROFT CREATURE. WHAT NEWS HAVE WE OF HER?
SINCE I LAST REPORTED TO YOUR LORDSHIP...
VERY LITTLE...
WE HAVE ASCERTAINED THAT SHE'S ENTERED THE TAKTSANG RAVINE...
BUT OUR FIELD AGENTS WERE UNABLE TO MATCH HER PACE, ONCE SHE ENTERED.
SHE IS HUMAN IS SHE NOT, MARKUS? THIS LARA CROFT.
YES, LORD VYMES.
A WOMAN. A YOUNG WOMAN. LITTLE MORE THAN A CHILD.
YES.
YET SHE HAS PROVEN HERSELF YOUR SUPERIOR ...
MARK.

MY LORD-- I DID MY BEST.
AS MUCH AS ANY MAN COULD DO IN YOUR SERVICE--
NO...
GROOOO

NHU--
NHU--
NOO-OO-OO
PAK PAK PAK
PAK PAK PAK
ONCE...
YOU WOULD HAVE BEGGED FOR THIS.
MY TOUCH.
AS THEY BEGGED.
AND I'LL BE BEAUTIFUL AGAIN.
YOU'LL SEE...
WHEN OUR LAZA HAS OPENED THE GATES OF HELL FOR ME.

TWENTY-SIX ROUNDS TO DROP ONE MONSTROSITY.
KLUTCH KLUTCH
THAT'LL NEVER DO.
I'LL BE HERE ALL DAY.
AND IT DOESN'T LOOK AS THOUGH THE REST OF THIS LOT ARE GOING TO QUEUE UP--
TO LET ME PICK THEM OFF ONE AT A TIME.
TZTZ
THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

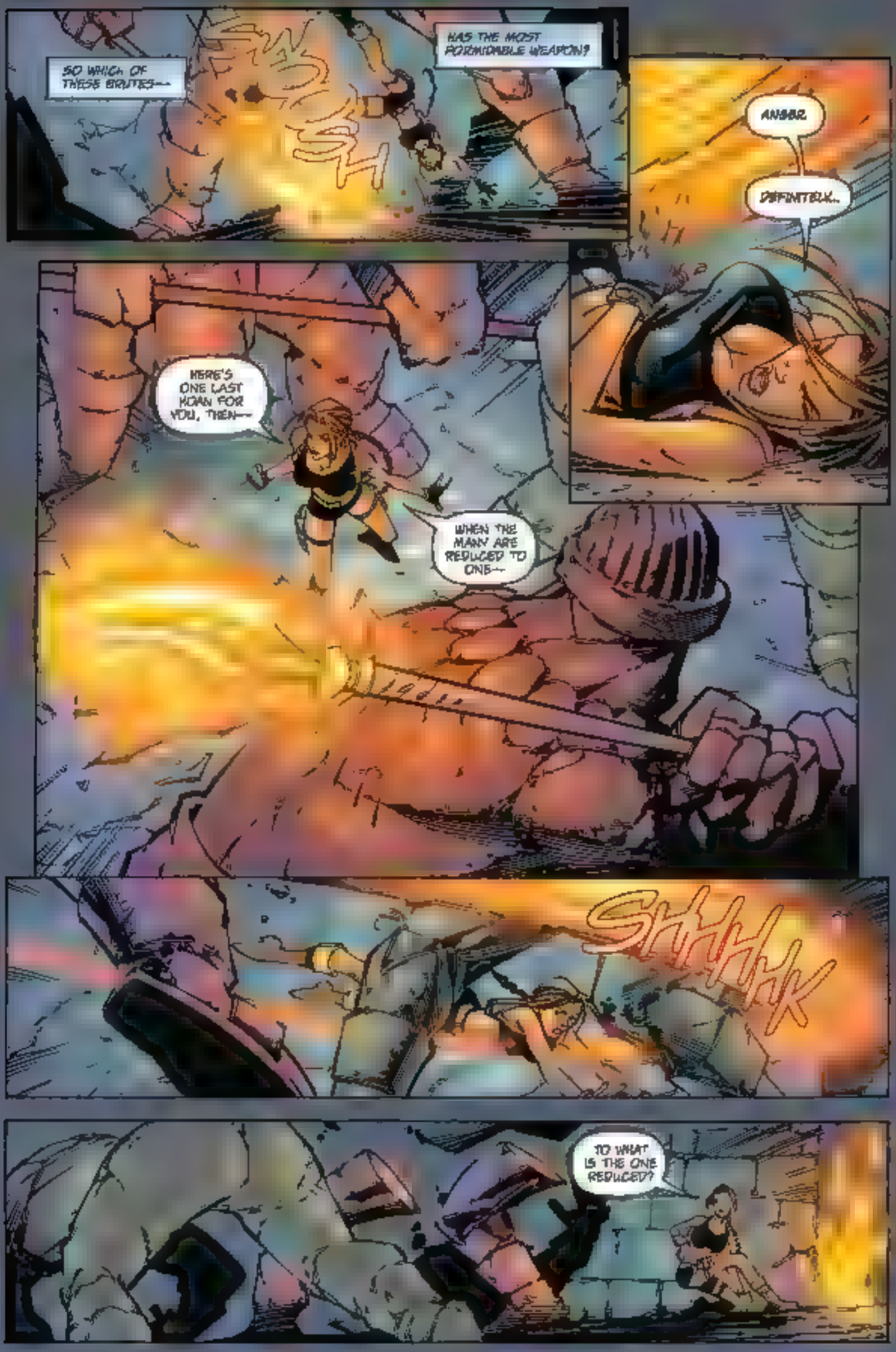
YOU KNOW, IF YOU WERE MEN --

I'D HAVE TO ASK--

THAP

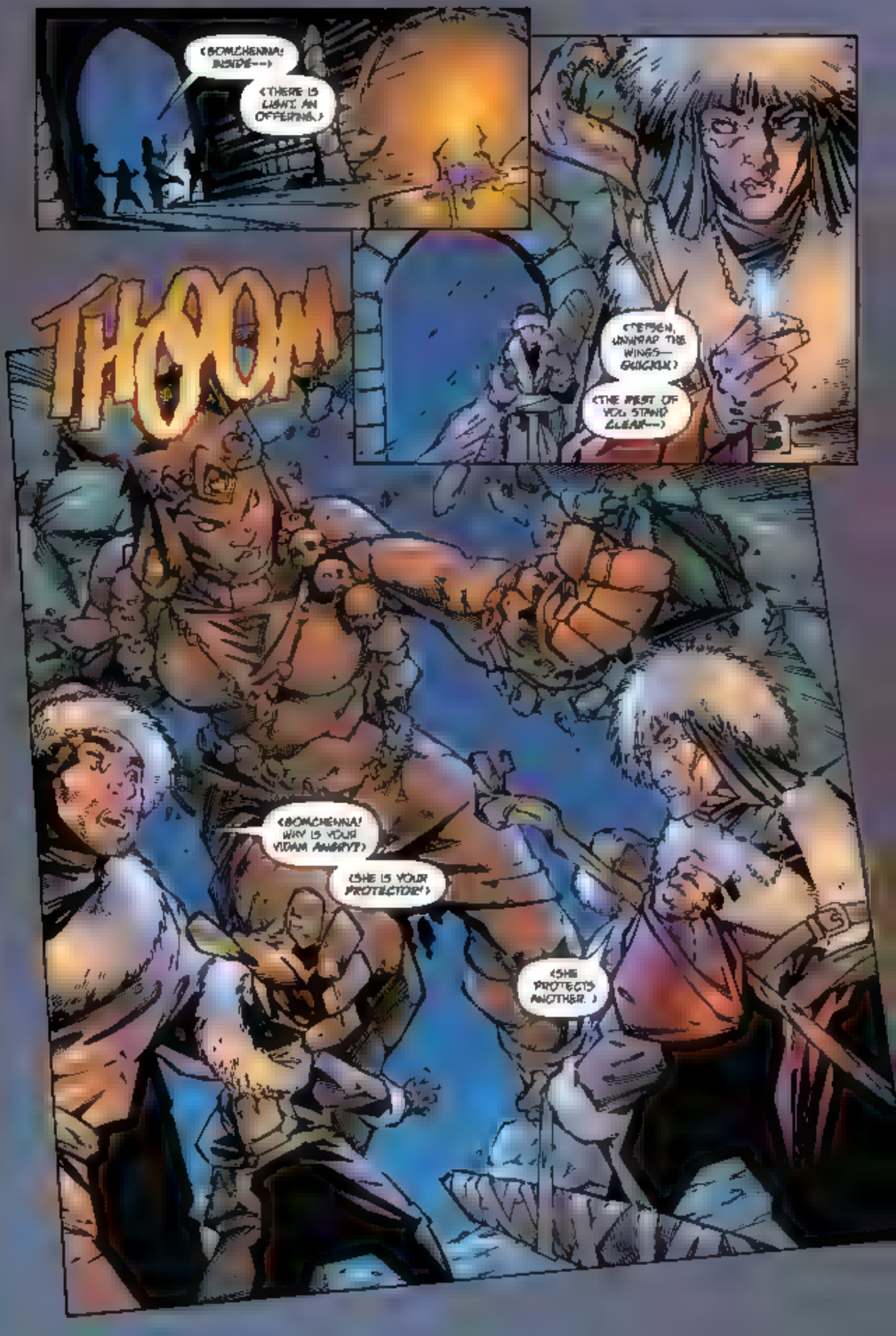
THAP

ARE YOU COMPENSATING FOR SOMETHING?


SO WHICH OF THESE BRUTES—
HAS THE MOST FORMIDABLE WEAPON?
SWISH
ANGAR
DEFINITELY...
HERE'S ONE LAST KOAN FOR YOU, THEN—
WHEN THE MANY ARE REDUCED TO ONE—
SHHHHK
TO WHAT IS THE ONE REDUCED?

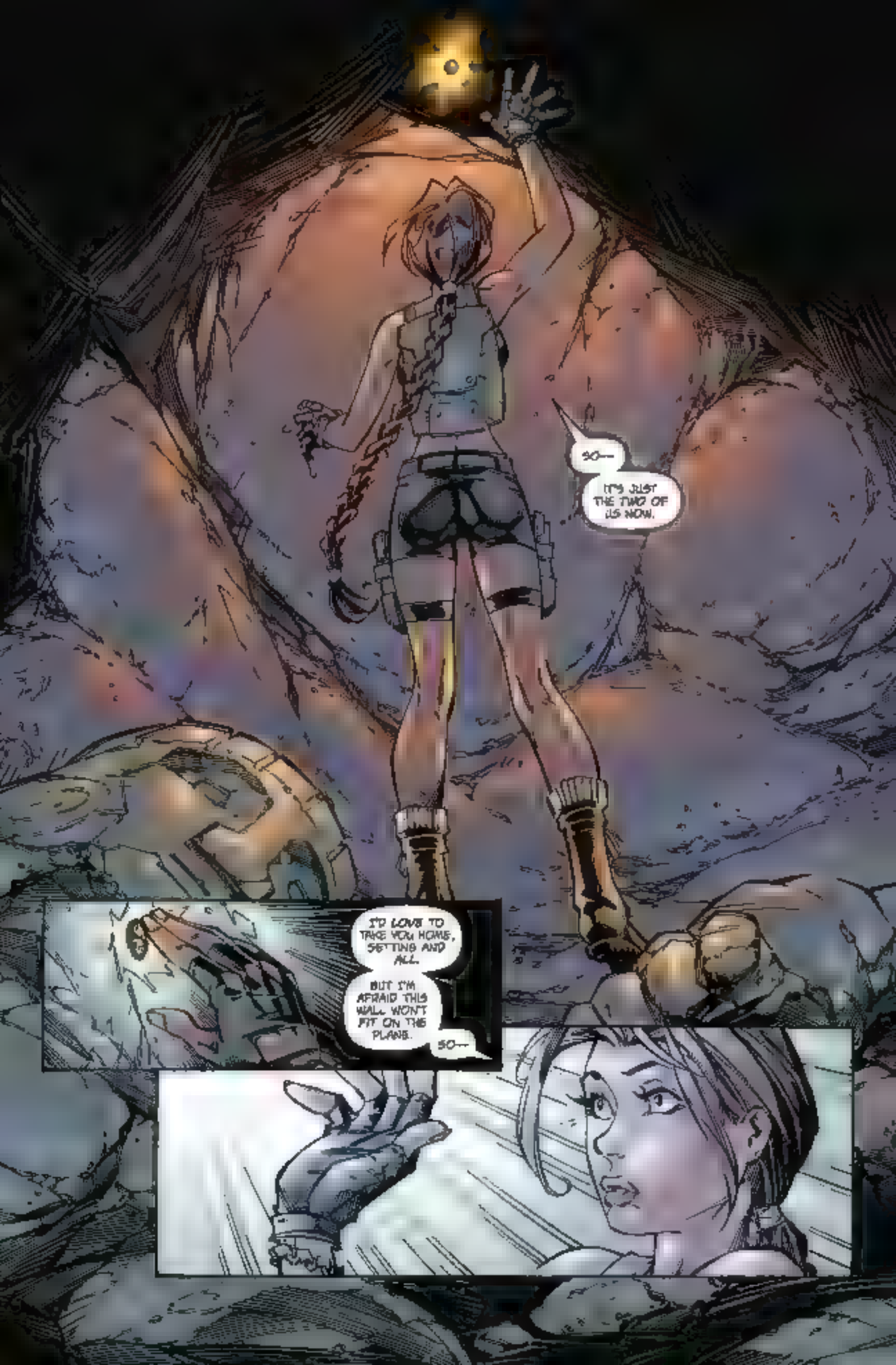
NOT A BAD BEGINNING...
BUT YOU WANT TO TRY HARDER.
SHHHAK
WOULD IT HELP IF I GAVE YOU A CLUE?
YOU'RE THE ONE.
GRRRRRR
ANOTHER SIMPLE PLAN.
LET'S HOPE IT SIMPLY WORKS.
BECAUSE IT'S POSSIBLE...
NO...
HE CAN'T FLY.
NURRAK.

THE TAKTSANG RAVINE.
THE PATH OF THE TIGER.
<YOU NEEDN'T HOVER.>
<I CLIMB MY OWN MOUNTAINS.>
<I'M NOT AS YOUNG AS I WAS YESTERDAY.>
<BUT THE OLD HORSE KNOWS THE TRAIL.—>
<TETSEN—>
<TETSEN!>
<PLEASE.>
<DO NOT DROP MY WINGS.>


<BOMCHENNA! INSIDE-->
<THERE IS LIGHT AN OFFERING.>
THOOM
<TETSEN, UNWRAP THE WINGS-- QUICKLY.>
<THE REST OF YOU STAND CLEAR-->
<BOMCHENNA! WHY IS YOUR VIDAM ANGRY?>
<SHE IS YOUR PROTECTOR!>
<SHE PROTECTS ANOTHER.>

OR DEATH.
(ANOTHER BRAVES THE PATH OF THE TIGER.)
(MAJUMARAH) GUARDS THE PATH UNTIL THE SEEKER FINDS ENLIGHTENMENT.)
THE CROFT GIRL.
IF THE ORDEAL IS HERS, GREAT QUEEN SHE IS UNPREPARED.
YOU MUST LET ME PASS!

NONESUCH!
WITH ALL RESPECT, GREAT QUEEN—
OUGHT NOT A BEING OF TRANSCENDENT COMPASSION HAVE THE GRACE—
TO BREAK A SILLY COSMIC LAW—
WHEN THE LIVES OF TWO WORLDS ARE AT STAKE?

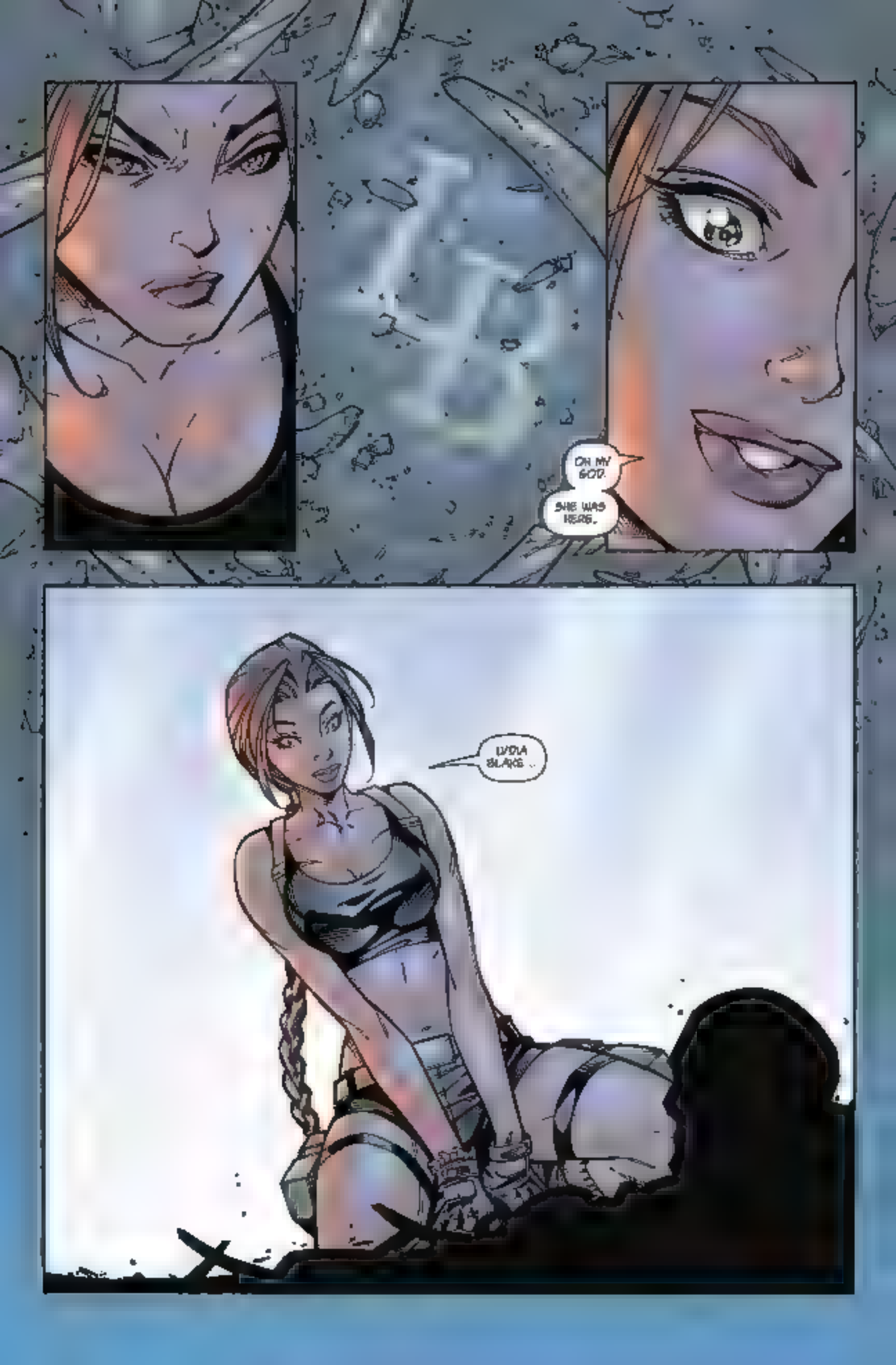

SO—
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US NOW.
I'D LOVE TO TAKE YOU HOME, SETTING AND ALL.
BUT I'M AFRAID THIS WALL WON'T FIT ON THE PLANE.
SO—

THIS IS NOT PROMISING.
PROMISING ANYTHING GOOD THAT IS.
WHO SET GUARDIANS TO PROTECT THIS MANDALA?
IT CAN OBVIOUSLY—
TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.

TKTAK
ALL RIGHT. I'M HERE...
BRING ON THE WHITE RABBIT.

I'D SETTLE FOR A DOORMOUSE.
OR A DOOR.
OR A WINDOW.
THERE CAN'T BE MUCH AIR IN HERE...
PARDON ME—
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU COULD DIRECT ME TO THE EXIT?

DON'T TELL ME THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THIS.
THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY OUT OF ANYTHING.
TRUST ME, I KNOW.
I'M LIVING PROOF.
YES.
NO.
NO RABBIT NO DORMOUSE
ONLY CHALK.


OH MY GOD.
SHE WAS HERE.
LYDIA BLAKE..

SHE WAS HERE! IN THIS VERY ROOM!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THIS IS THE GREATEST DAY OF MY LIFE--
LYDIA?
TO BE CONTINUED!

JD SMITH
2002

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JOHN NEY RIEBER

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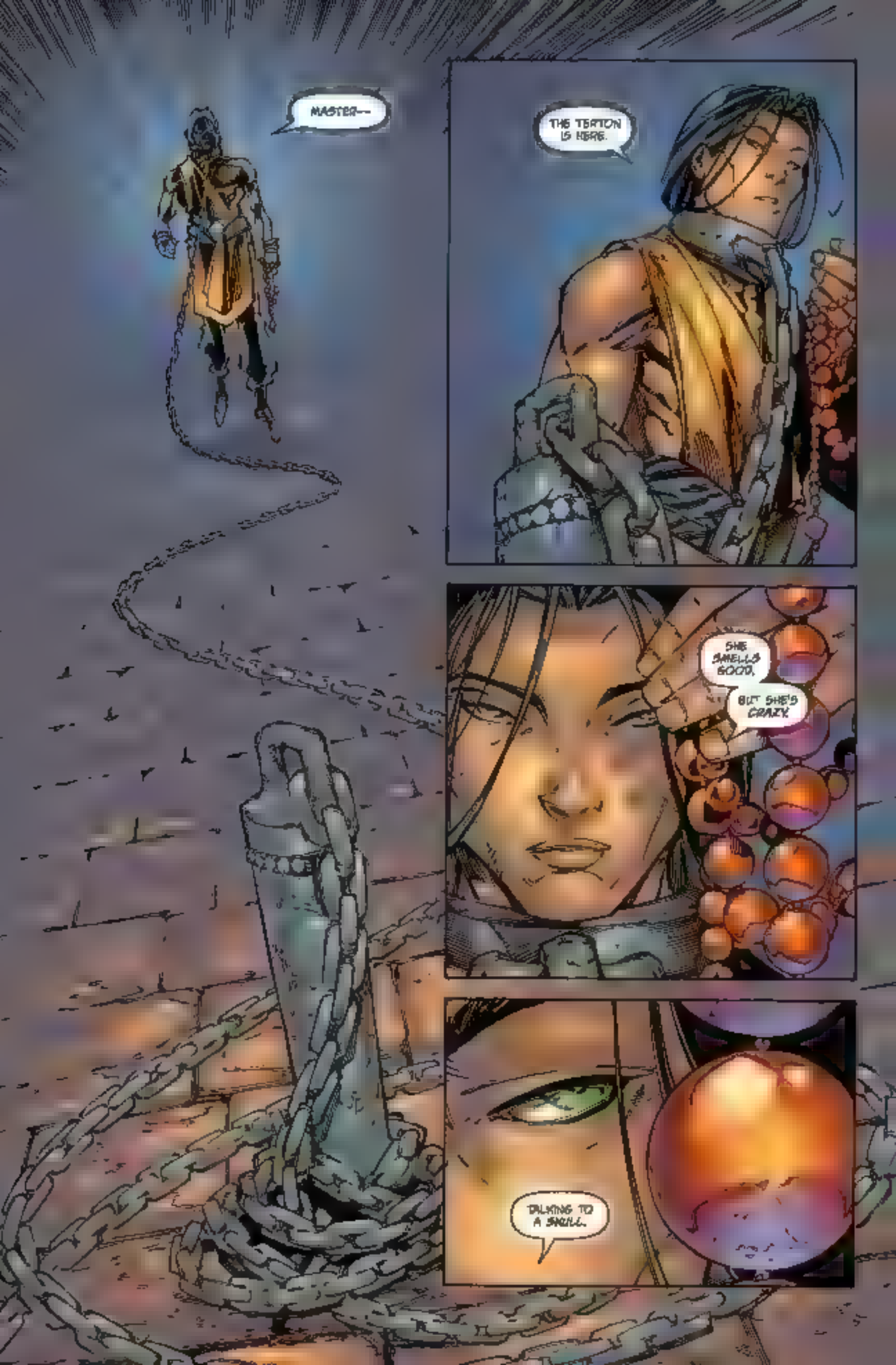
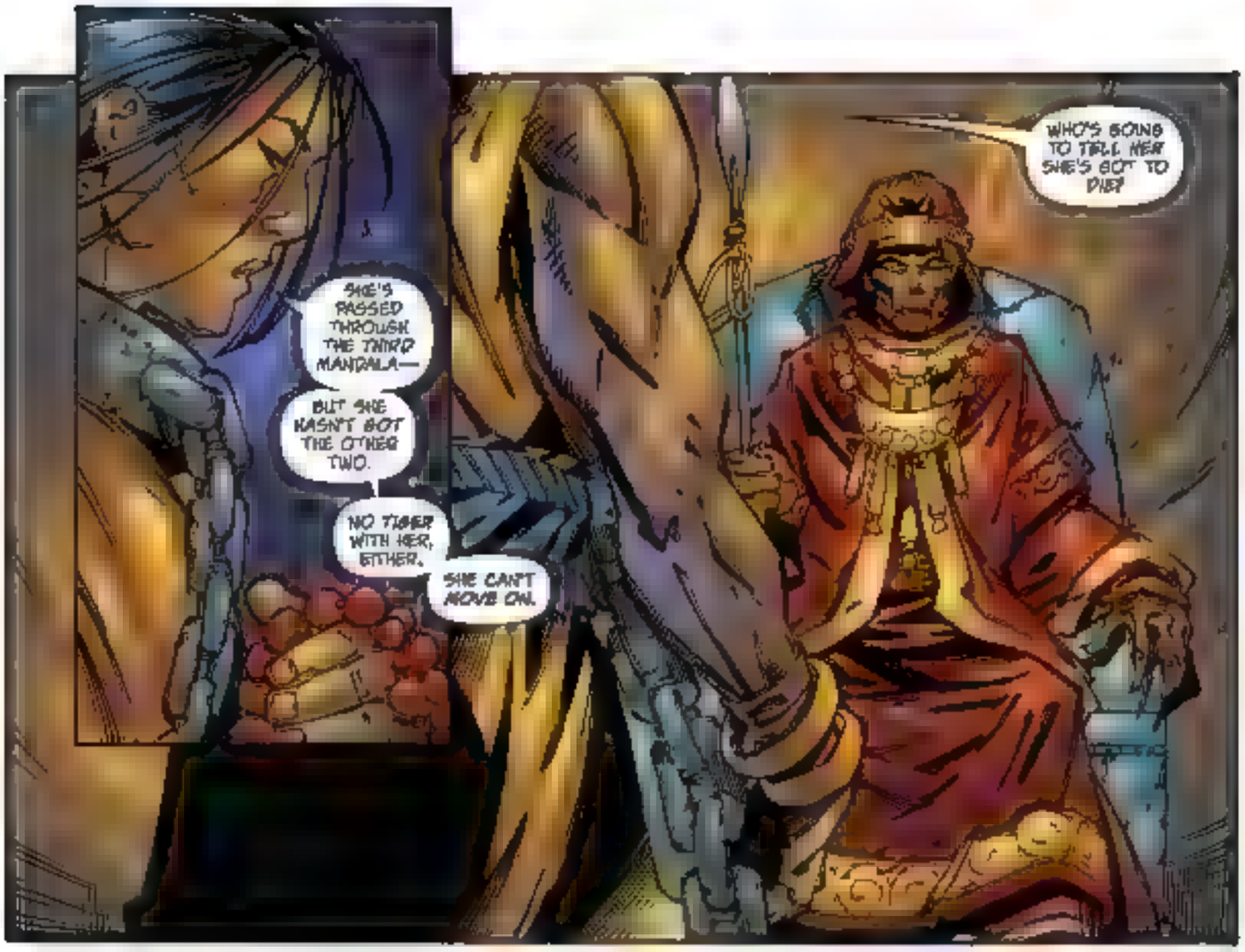

MASTER--
THE TEATON IS HERE.
SHE SMELLS GOOD,
BUT SHE'S CRAZY.
TALKING TO A SKULL.


WHO'S GOING TO TELL HER SHE'S GOT TO DIE?
SHE'S PASSED THROUGH THE THIRD MANDALA—
BUT SHE HASN'T GOT THE OTHER TWO.
NO TIGER WITH HER, EITHER.
SHE CAN'T MOVE ON.

GHRRR
YOU'RE NO FUN ANYMORE.

YOU COULD AT LEAST UNLEASH ME.
FINE.
KTING
TING
BE THAT WAY.
BUT I'M TELLING YOU--
IF THIS TARTON ISN'T ANY WISER THAN THE LAST ONE, I'M JUST GOING TO EAT HER.
NOT GOING TO WATCH HER SUFFER.
SHE SMELLS REALLY NICE.

LYDIA.
YOU KNOW...
I READ ALL YOUR BOOKS.

"I USED TO CREEP ABOUT THE GARDEN PRETENDING I WAS YOU...
"HAVING ADVENTURES.
I DROVE OUR GARDENER MAD MAKING HIM THE ME UP
SO I COULD ESCAPE.
WHEN YOU GO PLACES THAT EVERYONE ELSE IS AFRAID TO GO, YOU SEE THINGS THAT NO ONE ELSE SEES.
I LEARNED THAT FROM YOU.
SORRY.
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE?

HE CAN'T HEAR YOU.
HE?
HE.
YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT BONES, DO YOU? HE'S DEAD.
YOU WANT TO ESCAPE.
BUT THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM SAMSARA. ONLY LIBERATION.
I'LL SETTLE FOR LIBERATION. BUT—
THIS ISN'T LYDIA?
LYDIA BLAKE?
THE BAD TERTON?
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF MEAT ON HER BONES.
SHOULD HAVE EATEN HER WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.

OH—
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE TEETH—
YOU'RE A CANNIBAL.

HAH!
I'M NOT A CANNIBAL. I'M TSANG DO KHVI.
I LIKE YOU, LARA.
YOU SMELL GOOD.

YOU'RE NO WHITE RABBIT—
CERTAINLY NOT!
BUT I SUPPOSED YOU'D DO.
YOU CALLED THIS SAMSARA, AS IN—
THE REALM OF LIMITATION, DESIRE AND ILLUSION.
UNENLIGHTENMENT.
WELL, I'M READY TO BE LIBERATED!
ANYTIME YOU ARE.
I CAN HELP YOU. BUT I CAN'T DIE FOR YOU.
YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF
DIE?

YOUR BODY STOPS. AND YOUR SPIRIT PASSES THROUGH THE BARDO STATE--
TO THE HELL REALMS, IF YOU'RE NOT ENLIGHTENED.
I DON'T KNOW HOW PEOPLE DO IT WHERE YOU'RE FROM--
BUT THAT'S THE WAY WE DIE AROUND HERE.

OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE.
YOU MAY NOT PASS---
STAND BACK!
WHACK
THERE'S NO JUSTICE IN THIS.
YOU MUST FREE THE CROFT GIRL---
AND MY SISTERS!

YOU—
DRUGGED ME!
I POISONED YOU. YOU ASKED ME TO.
—!
WHERE ARE MY PISTOLS!

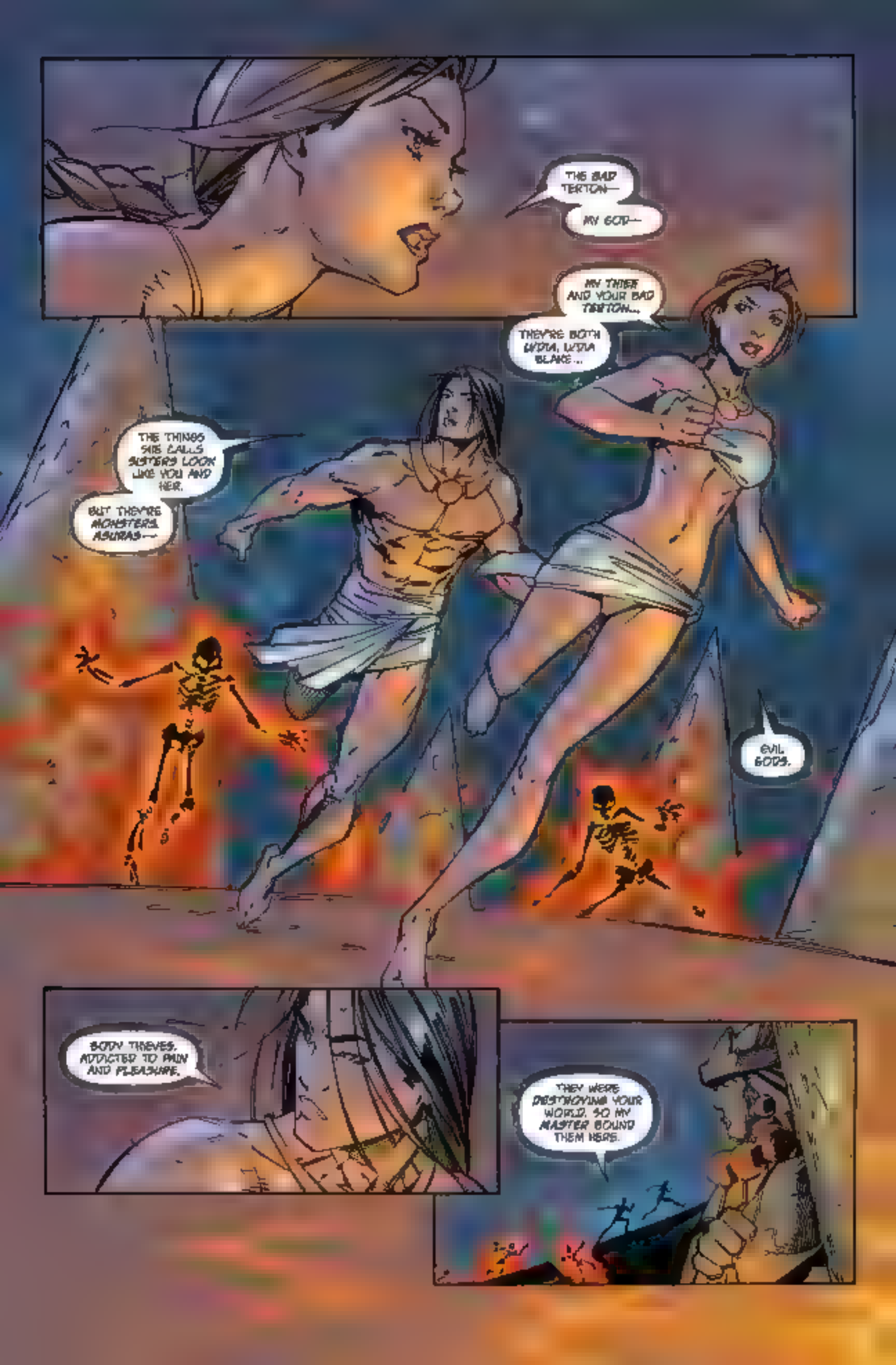
WHERE ARE MY CLOTHES!
WITH YOUR BODY.
NOW PREPARE YOURSELF—
IF YOU WISH TO RETURN TO YOUR BODY BEFORE THE MEAT ON YOUR BONES IS COLD

FIND A PATH THROUGH THE HELL-BORN—
UM— FIGHT I MEAN—
AND MOUNT THE SCREAMING THRONE.

WHAT DO YOU FEAR?
I'M NOT AFRAID OF DYING—
IF THIS IS WHAT BEING DEAD IS LIKE.
NOT AFRAID OF HEIGHTS?
THE DARK?
VIOLENCE?
NOT REALLY.
EVERYONE'S AFRAID OF SOMETHING.
BEING BORED.
DOES THAT COUNT?

THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF LIBERATION?
IT'S THE PATH TO LIBERATION.
THE TIGER'S PATH.
TIGER IS FEARLESS.
TIGER CHOOSES THE MOMENT—
AND STRIKES WITH ALL ITS FORCE.
IF YOU'D BROUGHT YOURS, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
TIGERS ARE ALMOST GOOD AS DOGS.

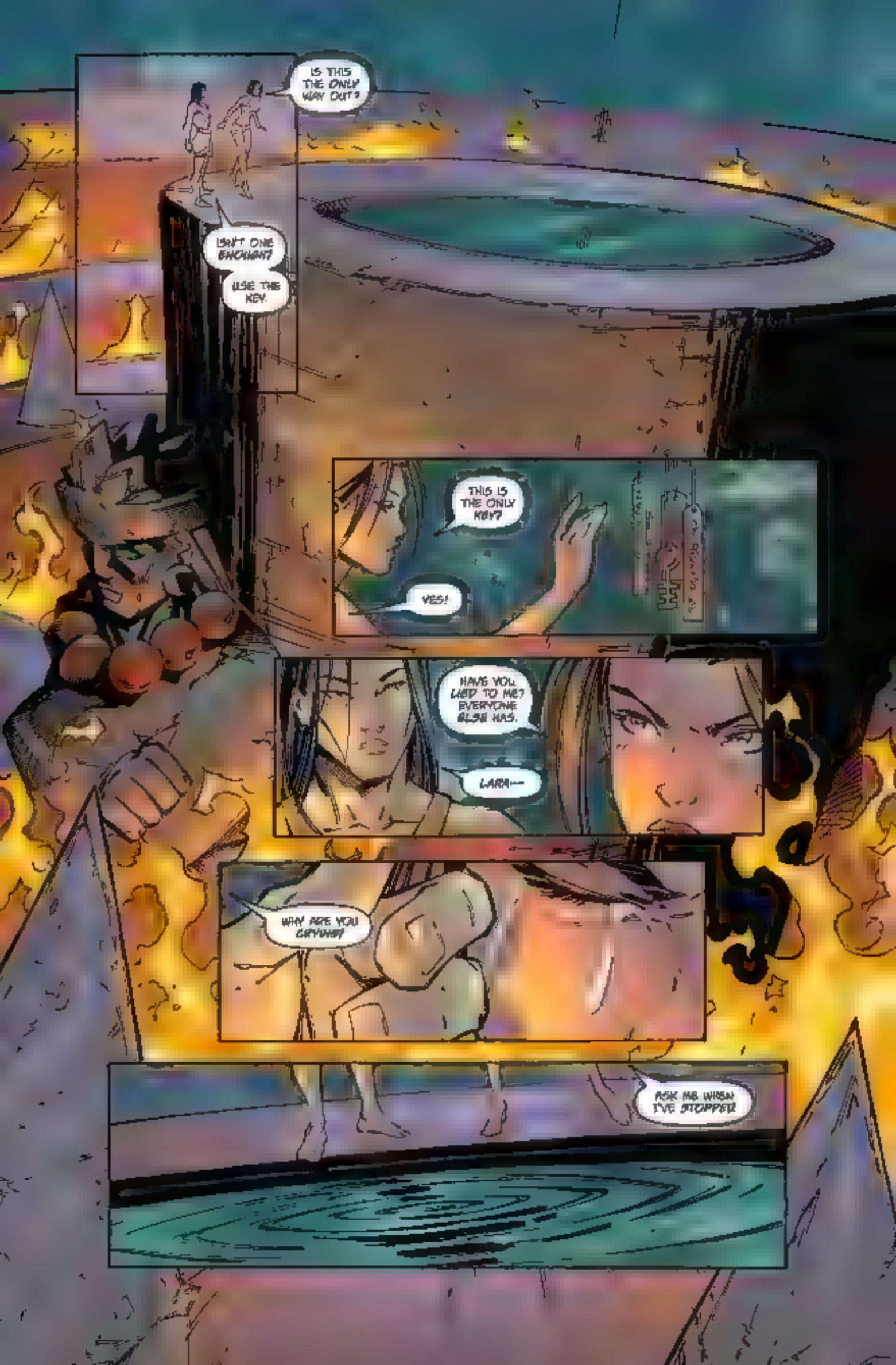
MY GOD.
WHAT ARE THOSE?
THOSE? THEY'RE SENTIENT BEINGS TRAPPED IN SAMSARA, AS YOU WERE.
MY TWIN?---
SHE SAID SHE NEEDED THE POWER OF THE FOUR MANDALAS, TO FREE HER SISTERS---
FROM THE SAMSARA PEARLS.
HRRGHH
SHE'S BAD.
IT'S A TERTON'S KARMA TO FIND SACRED THINGS,
NOT TO UNLEASH DEMONS.


THE BAD TERTON—
MY GOD—
MY THIEF AND YOUR BAD TERTON...
THEY'RE BOTH LYDIA, LYDIA BLAKE...
THE THINGS SHE CALLS SISTERS LOOK LIKE YOU AND HER.
BUT THEY'RE MONSTERS. ASURAS—
EVIL GODS.
BODY THIEVES. ADDICTED TO PAIN AND PLEASURE.
THEY WERE DESTROYING YOUR WORLD, SO MY MASTER BOUND THEM HERE.

ALL BUT ONE THE WORST.
WAYAMASA.
WAY—

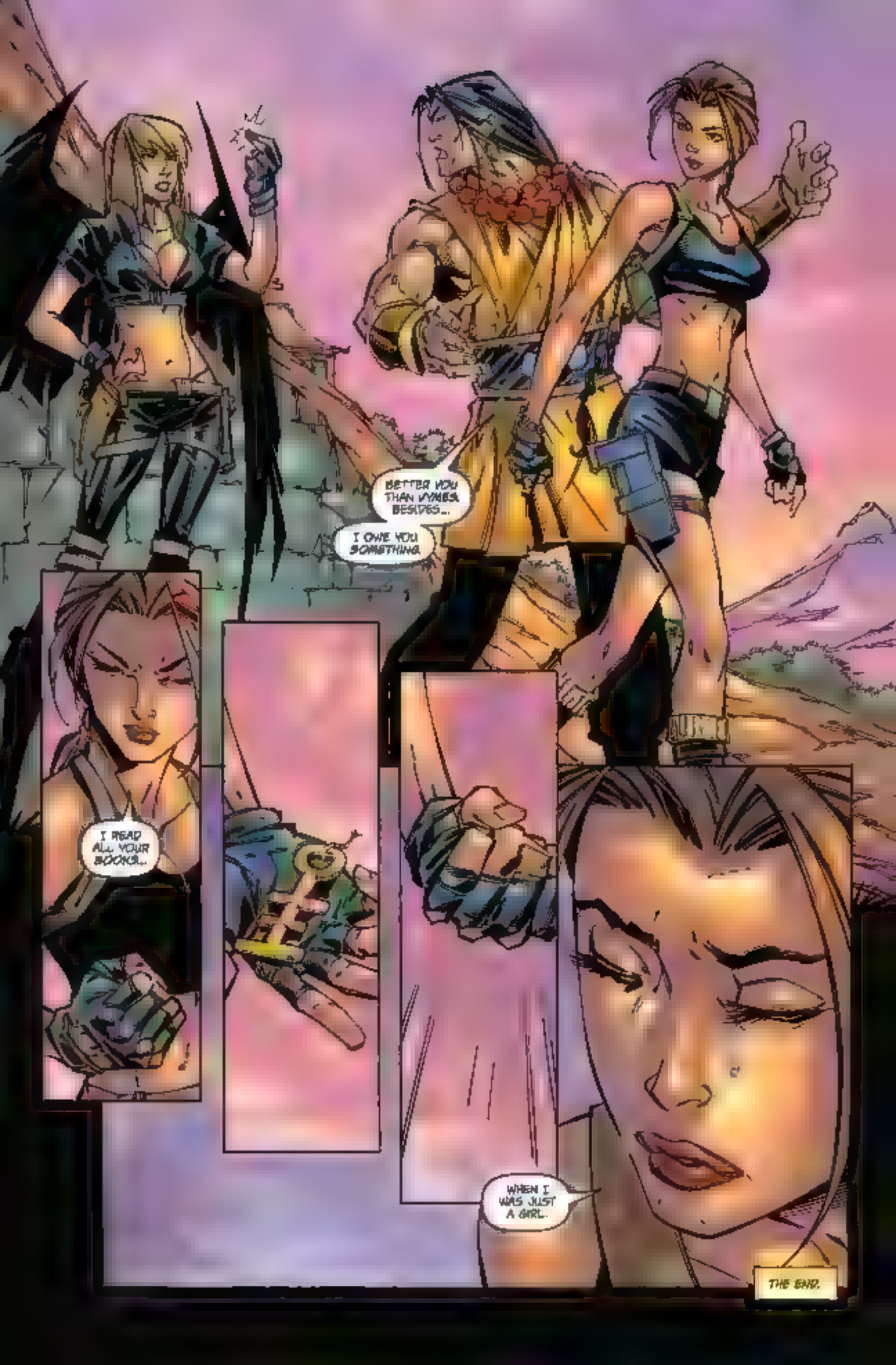
VYMES.

GET OUT OF MY WAY.


IS THIS THE ONLY WAY OUT?
ISN'T ONE ENOUGH?
USE THE KEY.
THIS IS THE ONLY KEY?
YES!
HAVE YOU LIED TO ME? EVERYONE ELSE HAS.
LARA—
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
ASK ME WHEN I'VE STOPPED!

IT'S NOT OVER.
YOU CAN KILL THIS PATHETIC FLESH, BUT YOU CAN'T KILL ME.
I'LL BE BACK—
HELLO, LYDIA—

HEEL, TSANG. HUSH.
LYDIA--
YOU'LL WANT THIS.
THE BLACK MANDALA... YOU'RE GIVING IT TO ME?


BETTER YOU THAN VYNES. BESIDES...
I OWE YOU SOMETHING.
I READ ALL YOUR BOOKS...
WHEN I WAS JUST A GIRL.
THE END.

MEDUSA'S GARDEN

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
GERARDO SANDOVAL

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL AND JASON GORDER

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH, CHAD FIDLER,
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COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

IT'S THE CURSE THAT NO ARCHAEOLOGIST ESCAPES.
HERE, ESPECIALLY, IT'S TOO EASY TO THINK—
HOW QUICKLY NOW BECOMES THE PAST
HOW QUICKLY THE THINGS THAT MEAN THE MOST TO US—
BECOME RELICS.
THIS BROODING ARCHAEOLOGIST IS ON HOLIDAY TODAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I'VE HAD ONE OF THESE—

A LAZY, ABSOLUTELY PERFECT DAY.
AND IF I M ANY JUDGE OF THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD TIBETAN MONKS...
I MAY HAVE A PERFECT NIGHT AHEAD OF ME, AS WELL.

YOU CHANGED CLOTHES AGAIN.
APPARENTLY.
DO YOUR PEOPLE ACTUALLY WEAR CLOTHING? OR DO YOU ONLY PLAY WITH IT?
IT'S A MATTER OF PERSONAL CHOICE NOT A CULTURAL CHARACTERISTIC.
I WEAR THE SAME THING FOR WEEKS ON END WHEN I'M WORKING.
SO I HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR THAT WHEN IT'S TIME TO PLAY.
BESIDES--
I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND AN OUTFIT THAT MAKES YOU BABBLE AND DROP THINGS.
AND THAT'S MY RESEARCH PROJECT FOR THE DAY.

LET'S SWIM.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.

ANOTHER CRANKY OCTOPUS? LIVING IN A MUSTY OLD JAR?

NO...

BUT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH.

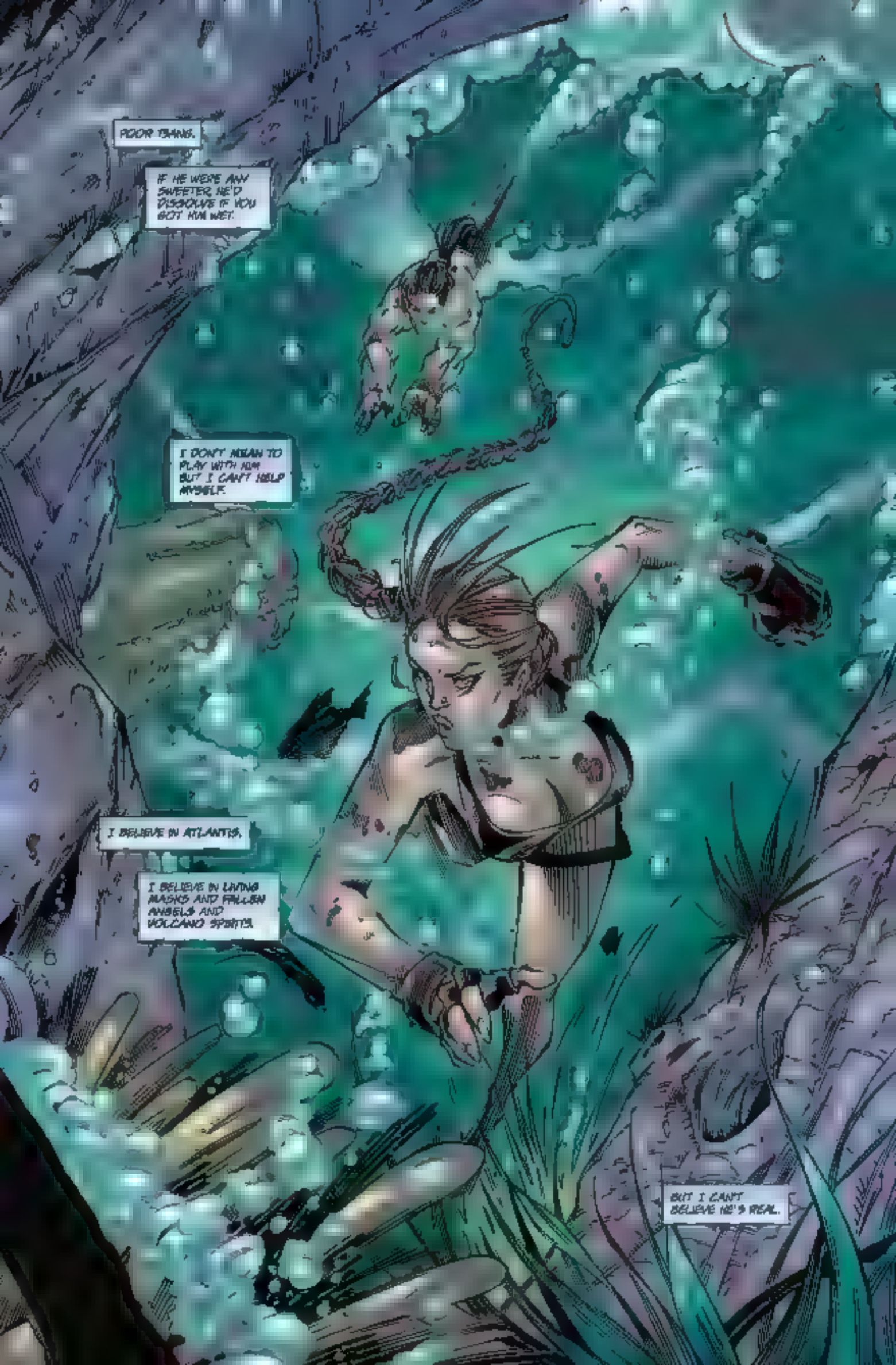
HELLO.

MISS CROFT

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO RETURN MY STOLEN ARTIFACTS AS PER THE TERMS OF OUR AGREEMENT

LORD JAMES-- OR MAY I CALL YOU HAMMASH?
NO, YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT. I HAVEN'T CALLED.
WHEN I ACCEPTED YOUR COMMISSION, I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU WERE HUMAN.
IT'S SINCE BEEN SUGGESTED TO ME THAT YOURS NOT
AND I DON'T DO BUSINESS WITH DEPRAVED IMMORTAL FIENDS.
TA.

I DON'T WANT HIM TO LIKE ME.
TAKE THESE.
ASURAS ARE VERY PROUD, JARA. AND VERY VAIN.
VAHAMASA IS GOING TO HATE YOU NOW.
PUT THEM IN YOUR EARS IF IT LOOKS AS THOUGH I MIGHT SHOOT SOMETHING WHILE WE'RE UNDER. OR YOU'LL BE A DEAF OLD MONK.
AND NEITHER OF US WILL ENJOY IT WHEN I WHISPER IN YOUR EAR.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
NO...
"BUT I'M NOT COMPLAINING."


POOR TSANG.
IF HE WERE ANY SWEETER, HE'D DISSOLVE IF YOU GOT HIM WET.
I DON'T MEAN TO PLAY WITH HIM BUT I CAN'T HELP MYSELF.
I BELIEVE IN ATLANTIS.
I BELIEVE IN LIVING MASKS AND FALLEN ANGELS AND VOLCANO SPIRITS.
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S REAL.

THERE'S A LEGEND YOU SAID.
YES?
HOW THESE CLIFFS CAME TO BE.
POSEIDON — THE SEA-GOD — WAS ANGRY
NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHY.
HE STRUCK THE MOUNTAINS WITH HIS TRIDENT AND THE PIECES FELL HERE
AND THIS PARTICULAR PIECE OF MOUNTAIN IS WHERE MY FAVORITE HELLENISTIC-ERA SCULPTURE WAS FOUND.
WELL, WHERE MOST OF HER WAS FOUND.
I'LL SHOW HER TO YOU ONE DAY. THE VENUS DE MILO.
THERE'S A REPLICA HERE, BUT THE ORIGINAL IS—
CHUPP! CHUPP! CHUPP! CHUPP!
GET DOWN. AND GET READY TO MOVE.
SEE THAT? THAT'S TROUBLE

IS IT?
ANY KIND OF SURPRISE THAT HAS MISSILES ATTACHED TO IT IS TROUBLE.
"TRUST ME."
I DON'T THINK THEY'VE SEEN US, THOUGH. JUST THE YACHT--
THOM
YOU CALL THAT "TROUBLE?" THEY CAME TO KILL YOU!
DOWN, BOY.
THEY'VE GIVEN US A SMOKESCREEN. LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT, SHALL WE?

FOLLOW ME AND DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING THAT I DON'T TOUCH--
ANYTHING
LARA--
WE'VE GOT MORE TROUBLE
VAHMASA'S HERE.
AND WE'RE NOT.
DIVE.

DO YOU FIND THE AFTERTASTE OF DIVINE RETRIBUTION TO YOUR LIKING, CLEVER GIRL?

AS THE WRECKAGE OF YOUR PLEASURE CRAFT SPINS INTO THE ABYSS?

"THAT'S ONE DELICIOUS LITTLE DREAM CRUSHED LIKE A ROTTING CRABSHELL...

"NOW, DARLING..

"LET'S SEE WHAT YOU TASTE LIKE."

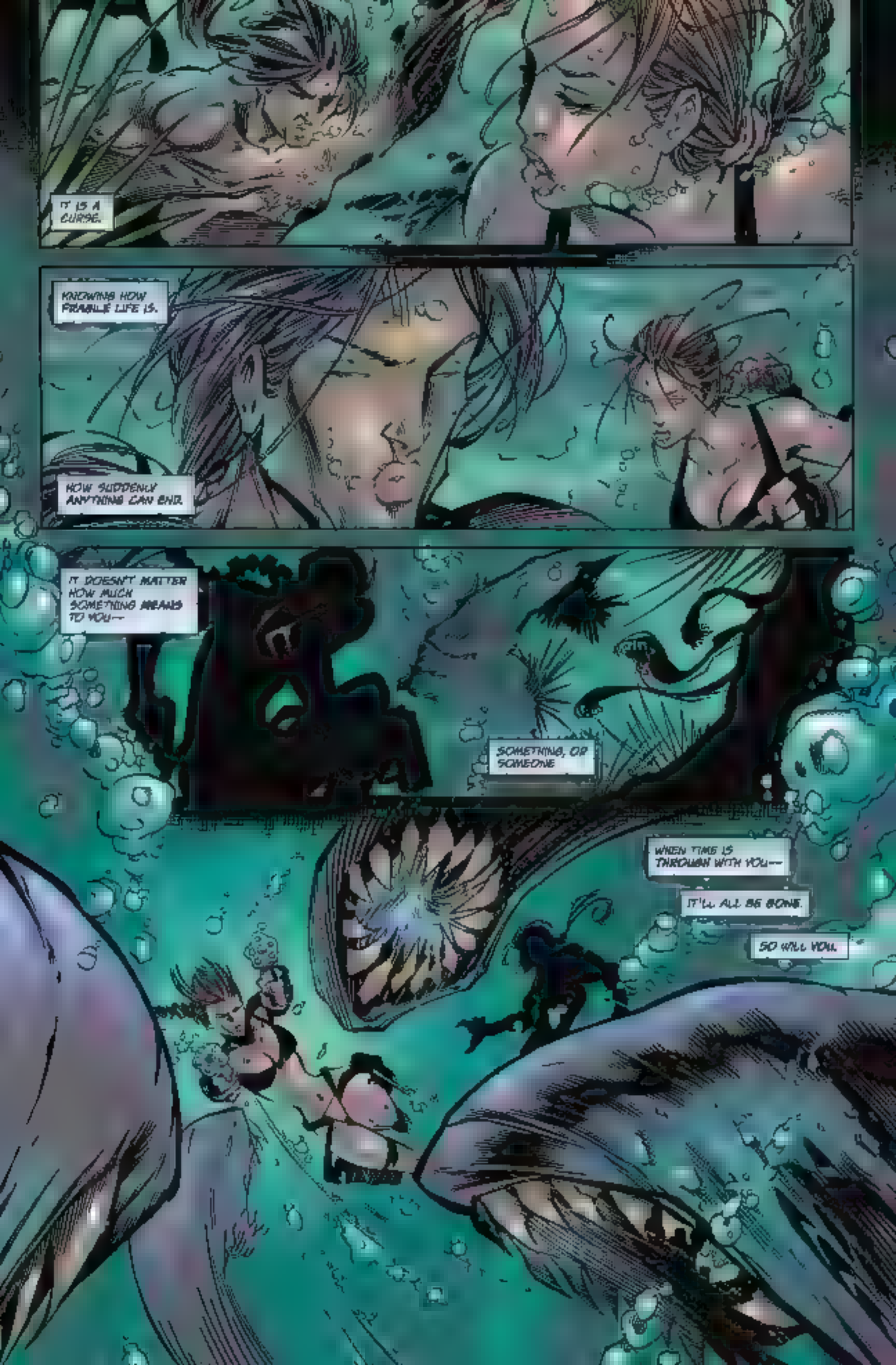
THE LAST TUNNEL'S LONGER AND THE DIVE IS DEEPER.

CATCH YOUR BREATH--

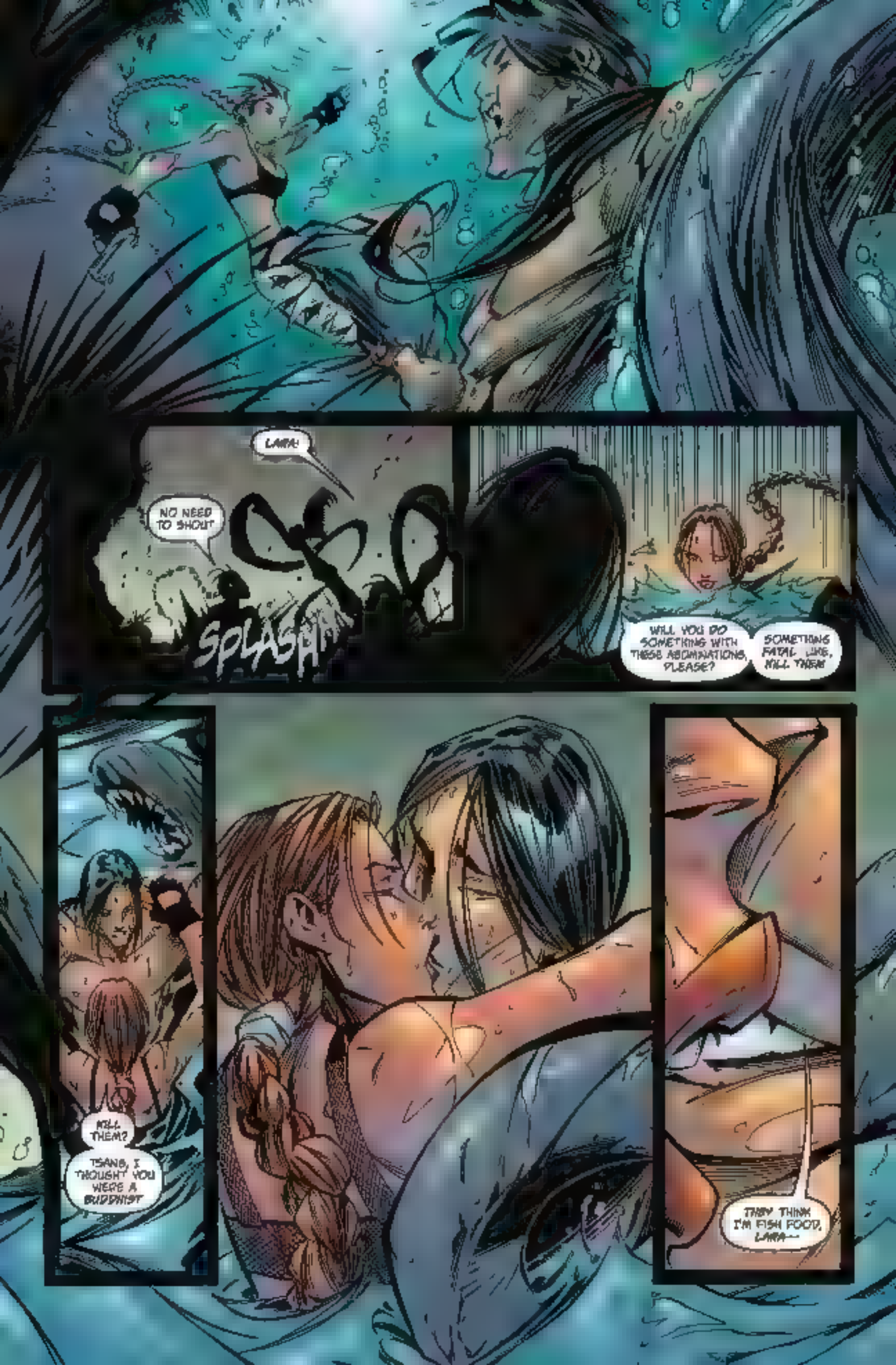
AND PRAY.

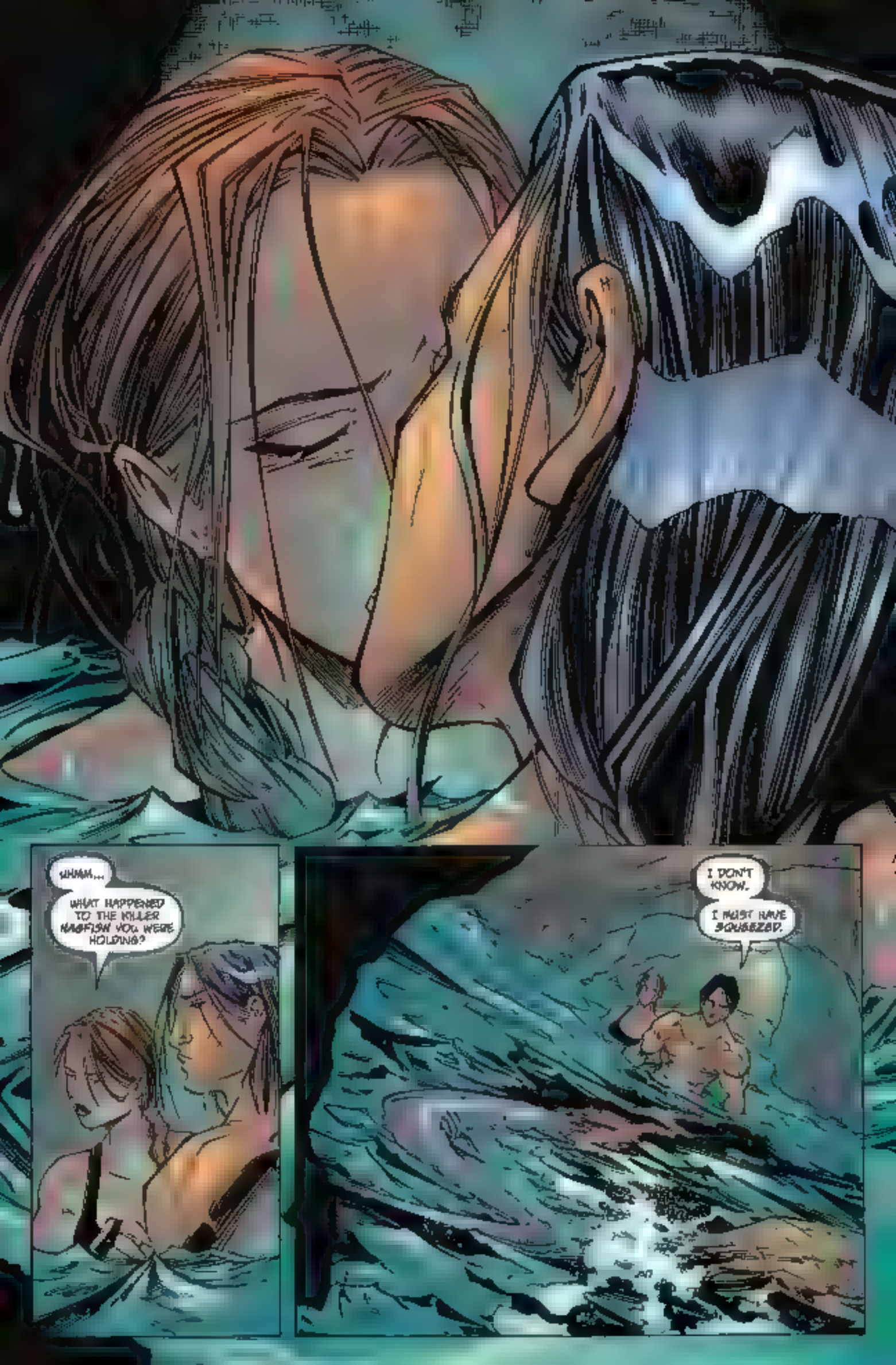
WE ARE NOT LEAVING OUR BONES HERE FOR FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO FIND.

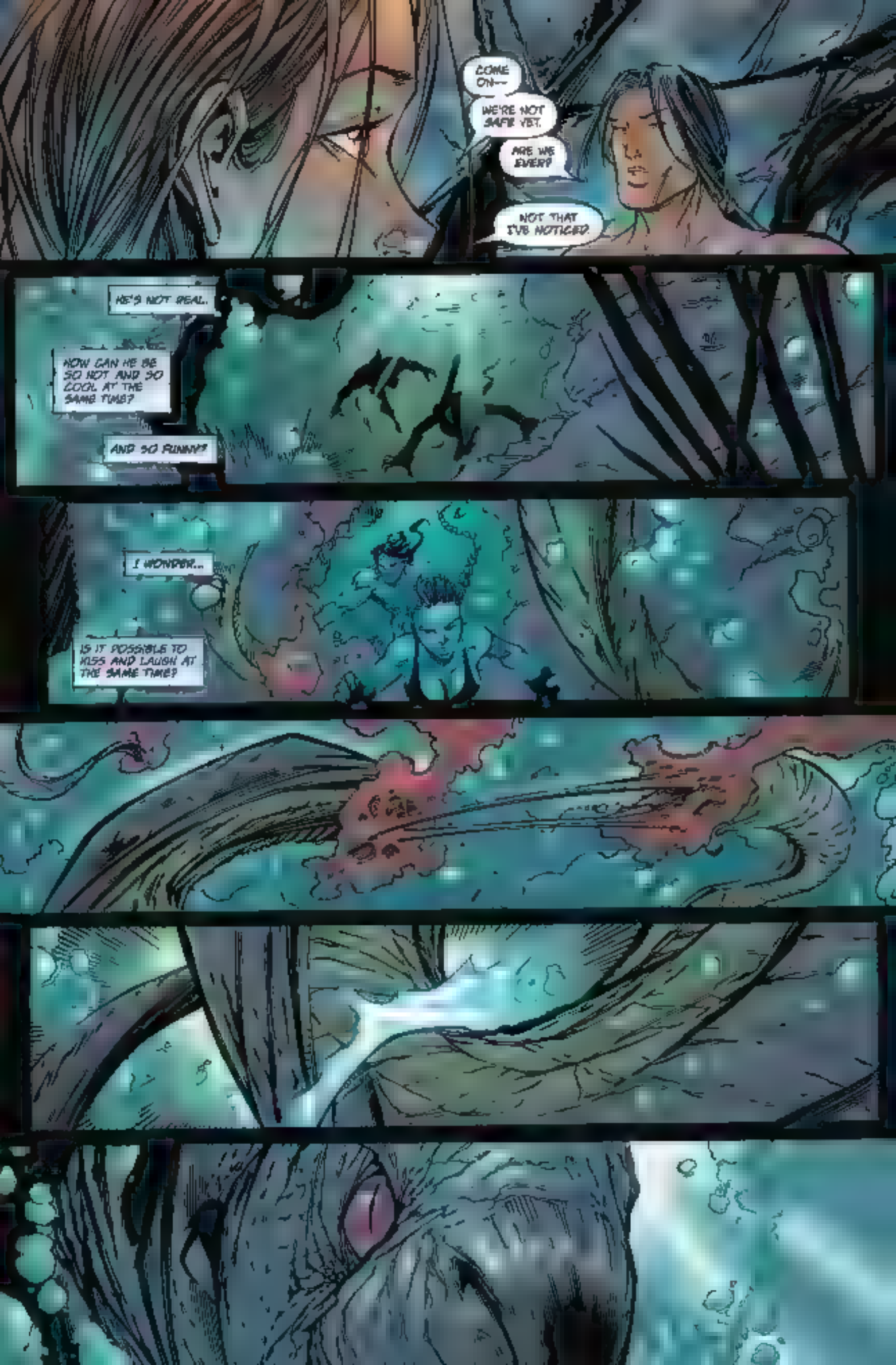
WE ARE ON VACATION.


IT IS A CURSE.
KNOWING HOW FRAGILE LIFE IS.
HOW SUDDENLY ANYTHING CAN END.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH SOMETHING MEANS TO YOU—
SOMETHING, OR SOMEONE
WHEN TIME IS THROUGH WITH YOU—
IT'LL ALL BE GONE.
SO WILL YOU.

NOW IS THE EDGE OF HISTORY—
AND WE'RE ALL A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM OBLIVION.
UNLESS WE FIGHT
BUT ONCE OR TWICE IN A LIFETIME YOU MAY LOOK UP—
TO FIND YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING ALONE.
AND IT'S GOOD, THEN—
IT'S SO GOOD.
TO BE ALIVE.

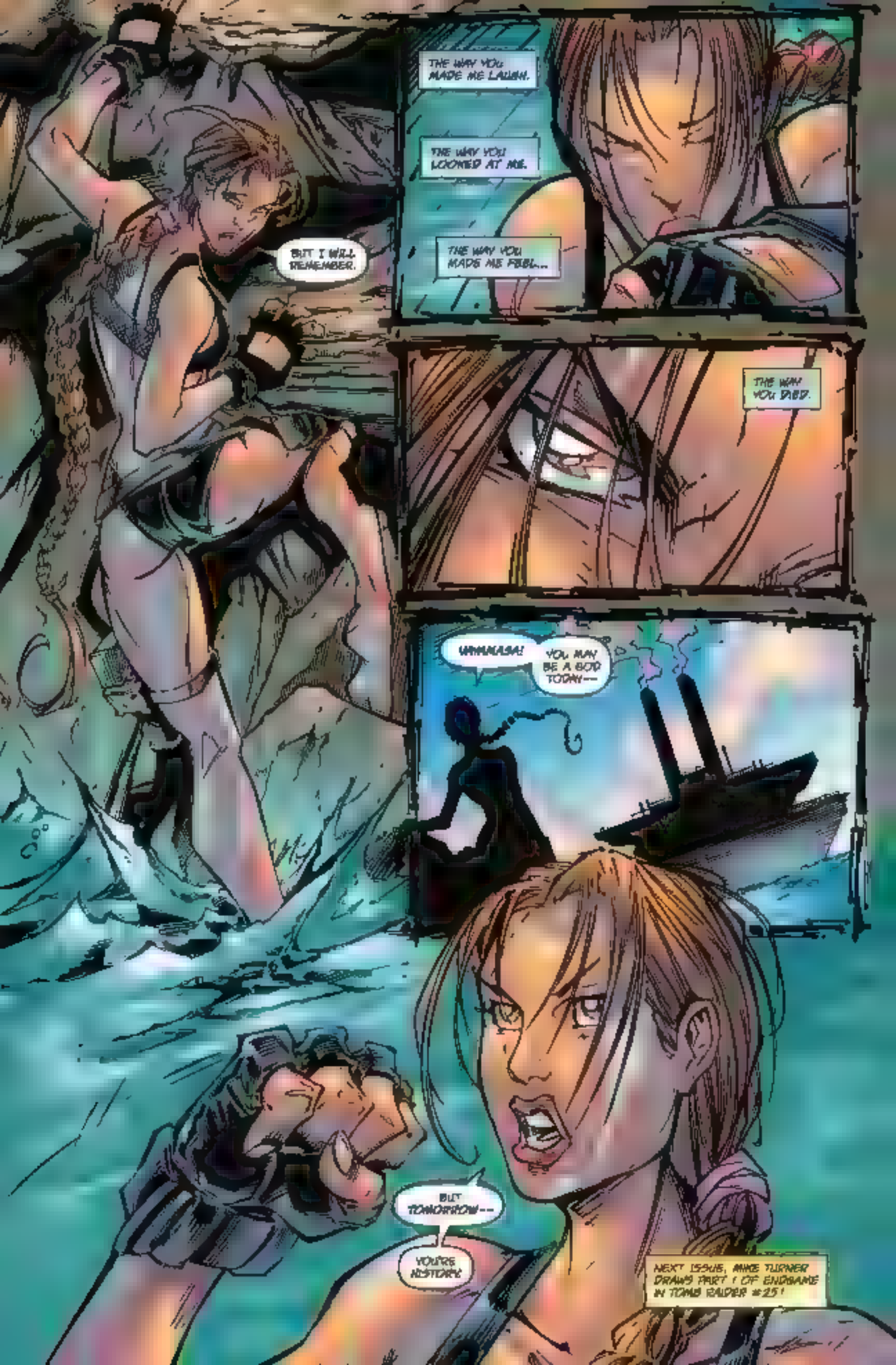

LARA!
NO NEED TO SHOUT
SPLASH!
WILL YOU DO SOMETHING WITH THESE ABOMINATIONS, PLEASE?
SOMETHING FATAL LIKE, KILL THEM!
KILL THEM?
TSANG, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A BUDDHIST
THEY THINK I'M FISH FOOD, LARA--


UHMM...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE KILLER NAGFISH YOU WERE HOLDING?
I DON'T KNOW.
I MUST HAVE SQUEEZED.


COME ON—
WE'RE NOT SAFE YET.
ARE WE EVER?
NOT THAT I'VE NOTICED.
HE'S NOT REAL.
HOW CAN HE BE SO HOT AND SO COOL AT THE SAME TIME?
AND SO FUNNY?
I WONDER...
IS IT POSSIBLE TO KISS AND LAUGH AT THE SAME TIME?

TSHANG!
REMEMBER ME, LARA
I'LL BE BACK--
FOR YOU.

KKKKKRAKKKK
SHKKLAM
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
YOU'LL BE BACK!! STUPID MONK--


THE WAY YOU MADE ME LAUGH.
THE WAY YOU LOOKED AT ME.
THE WAY YOU MADE ME FEEL...
BUT I WILL REMEMBER.
THE WAY YOU DIED.
UHHAASA!
YOU MAY BE A GOD TODAY---
BUT TOMORROW---
YOU'RE HISTORY!
NEXT ISSUE, MIKE TURNER DRAWS PART 1 OF ENDGAME IN TOMB RAIDER #25!

ABYSS PART 1

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
RANDY GREEN

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
[illegible]

COVER PENCILS
[illegible]

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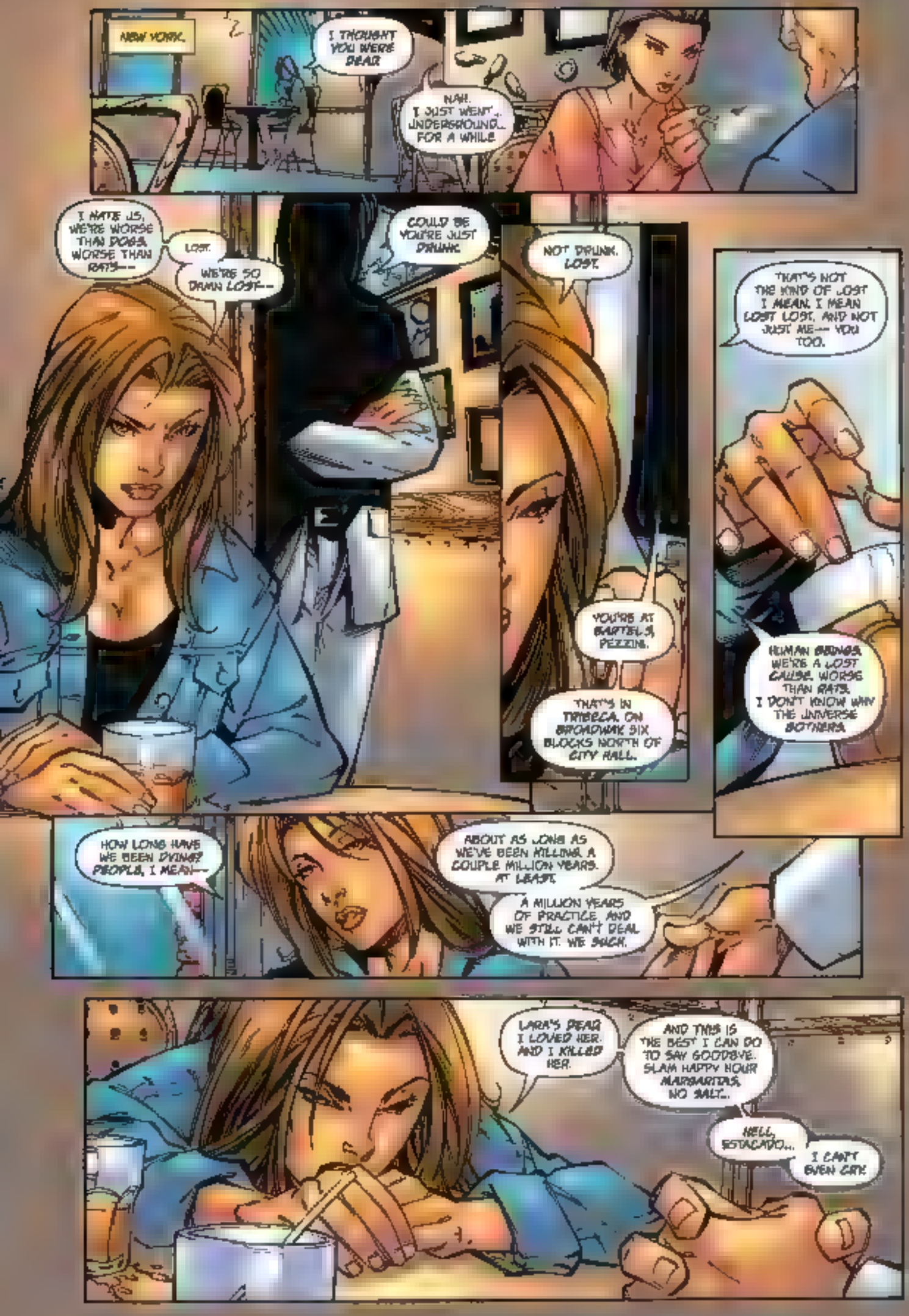
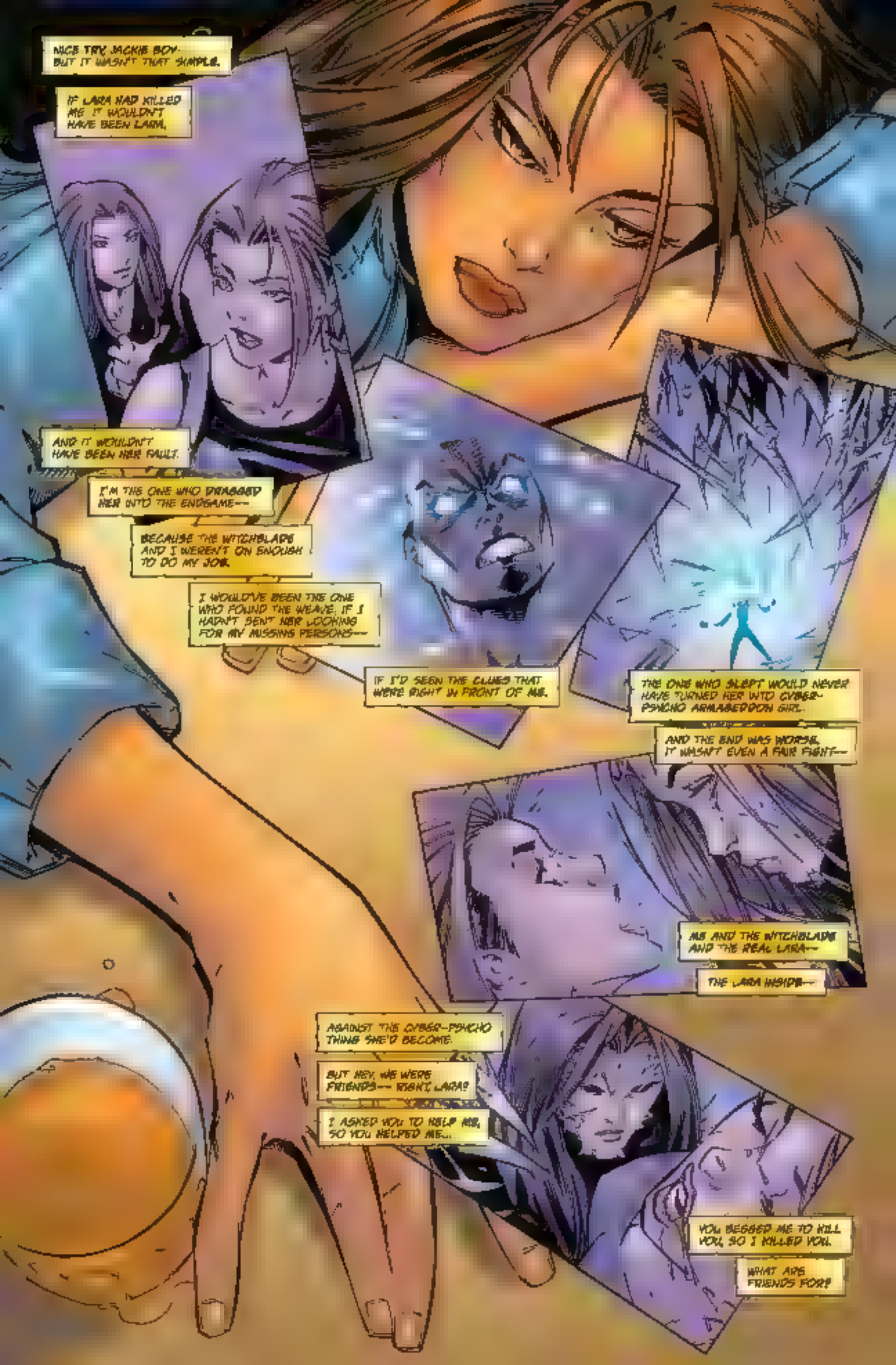

NEW YORK.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD
NAH. I JUST WENT... UNDERGROUND... FOR A WHILE
I HATE US. WE'RE WORSE THAN DOGS. WORSE THAN RATS--
LOST. WE'RE SO DAMN LOST--
COULD BE YOU'RE JUST DRUNK
NOT DRUNK. LOST.
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF LOST I MEAN. I MEAN LOST LOST. AND NOT JUST ME-- YOU TOO.
YOU'RE AT BARTEL'S, PEZZINI.
THAT'S IN TRIBECA. ON BROADWAY. SIX BLOCKS NORTH OF CITY HALL.
HUMAN BEINGS. WE'RE A LOST CAUSE. WORSE THAN RATS. I DON'T KNOW WHY THE UNIVERSE BOTHERS.
HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN DYING? PEOPLE, I MEAN--
ABOUT AS LONG AS WE'VE BEEN KILLING. A COUPLE MILLION YEARS. AT LEAST.
A MILLION YEARS OF PRACTICE, AND WE STILL CAN'T DEAL WITH IT. WE SUCK.
LARA'S DEAD. I LOVED HER. AND I KILLED HER.
AND THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO TO SAY GOODBYE. SLAM HAPPY HOUR MARGARITAS, NO SALT...
HELL, ESTACADO...
I CAN'T EVEN CRY.

BABY. I KNOW— IF ANYBODY DOES.
IT CAN REALLY TEAR YOU UP, KILLING A FRIEND.
BUT TRUST ME...
IT'S BETTER THAN LETTING A FRIEND KILL YOU.


NICE TRY, JACKIE BOY. BUT IT WASN'T THAT SIMPLE.
IF LARA HAD KILLED ME IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN LARA.
AND IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HER FAULT.
I'M THE ONE WHO DRAGGED HER INTO THE ENDGAME--
BECAUSE THE WITCHBLADE AND I WEREN'T ON ENOUGH TO DO MY JOB.
I WOULD'VE BEEN THE ONE WHO FOUND THE WEAVE. IF I HADN'T SENT HER LOOKING FOR MY MISSING PERSONS--
IF I'D SEEN THE CLUES THAT WERE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
THE ONE WHO SLEPT WOULD NEVER HAVE TURNED HER INTO CYBER-PSYCHO ARMAGEDDON GIRL.
AND THE END WAS WORSE. IT WASN'T EVEN A FAIR FIGHT--
ME AND THE WITCHBLADE AND THE REAL LARA--
THE LARA INSIDE--
AGAINST THE CYBER-PSYCHO THING SHE'D BECOME.
BUT HEY, WE WERE FRIENDS-- RIGHT, LARA?
I ASKED YOU TO HELP ME, SO YOU HELPED ME..
YOU BEGGED ME TO KILL YOU, SO I KILLED YOU.
WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?

SO...
WHAT'S THE FUNERAL GOING TO BE LIKE?
FUNERAL?
IT'S A MEMORIAL SERVICE, ESTALADO!
A FUNERAL IS WHEN YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO BURY

YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMEONE SO WELL. AND THEN THEY DIE.
AND YOU FIND OUT YOU WERE SO WRONG.
WHAT KIND OF SEND-OFF WOULD YOU HAVE WANTED, LARA?
A FUNERAL? A WAKE?
SOMETHING EGYPTIAN?
NO...
SOMETHING NORSE, MAYBE.
DRIFTING OFF TO VALHALLA ON A BURNING LONGBOAT...
YEAH.
GUNS IN HAND.

THIS IS DYING—

THIS UNDERTOW.

HEAR ME, O YE FRIENDS OF SEBAK, FOR I AM BROTHER TO THE SCORPION AND THE NIGHT!

DENY MY ENEMY PASSAGE TO THE HOUSE OF OSIRIS THE DEFEATER, WHO SEARED THEE WITH FIRE UPON THE PLAINS OF SEKHEM!

AWL, O YE WHO OPEN UP THE HIDDEN WAYS— FALLEN OF THE HOUSE OF OSIRIS, OVERLOOKERS OF THE HOLY ONES!

SEIZE YE THE SOUL OF MY ENEMY, AS THY BROTHER SET DID SEIZE OSIRIS, IN HIS DAY OF VENGEANCE.

DRIVE HER FROM THE PATHS OF LIGHT!

AS SHE HATH TRESPASSED IN THE HIDDEN PLACES OF THE DEAD AND PLUNDERED OUR ANCIENT TOMBS, LEAVING US IN ETERNAL HUNGER, DUST AND DARKNESS—

LET HER BE THUS JUDGE AND WEAVER OF HER SOUL!

TOMB RAIDER

FOR LARA CROFT—

THIS IS DEATH.

"LOOK UPON HER, MY SLAVES!

"ALL THE TREASURE SHE HAS TAKEN FROM THE WORLD OF SHADES—

"THESE ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE TREASURE SHE IS.

"NO QUEEN OF THE TWO KINGDOMS EVER BURNED WITH SUCH UNTAMEABLE PASSION, SUCH INSATIABLE HUNGER FOR LIFE.

"BUT I SHALL TAME HER—

"POSSESS HER IN ALL HER WILDNESS—

"TASTE HER TEARS, AND MORE.

"MY BEDCHAMBER WILL ECHO WITH A THOUSAND CRIES—

"FOR EVERY GRAIN OF SAND THAT THIS BEAUTIFUL JACKAL TOOK FROM MY BURIAL CHAMBER IN THE WORLD ABOVE.

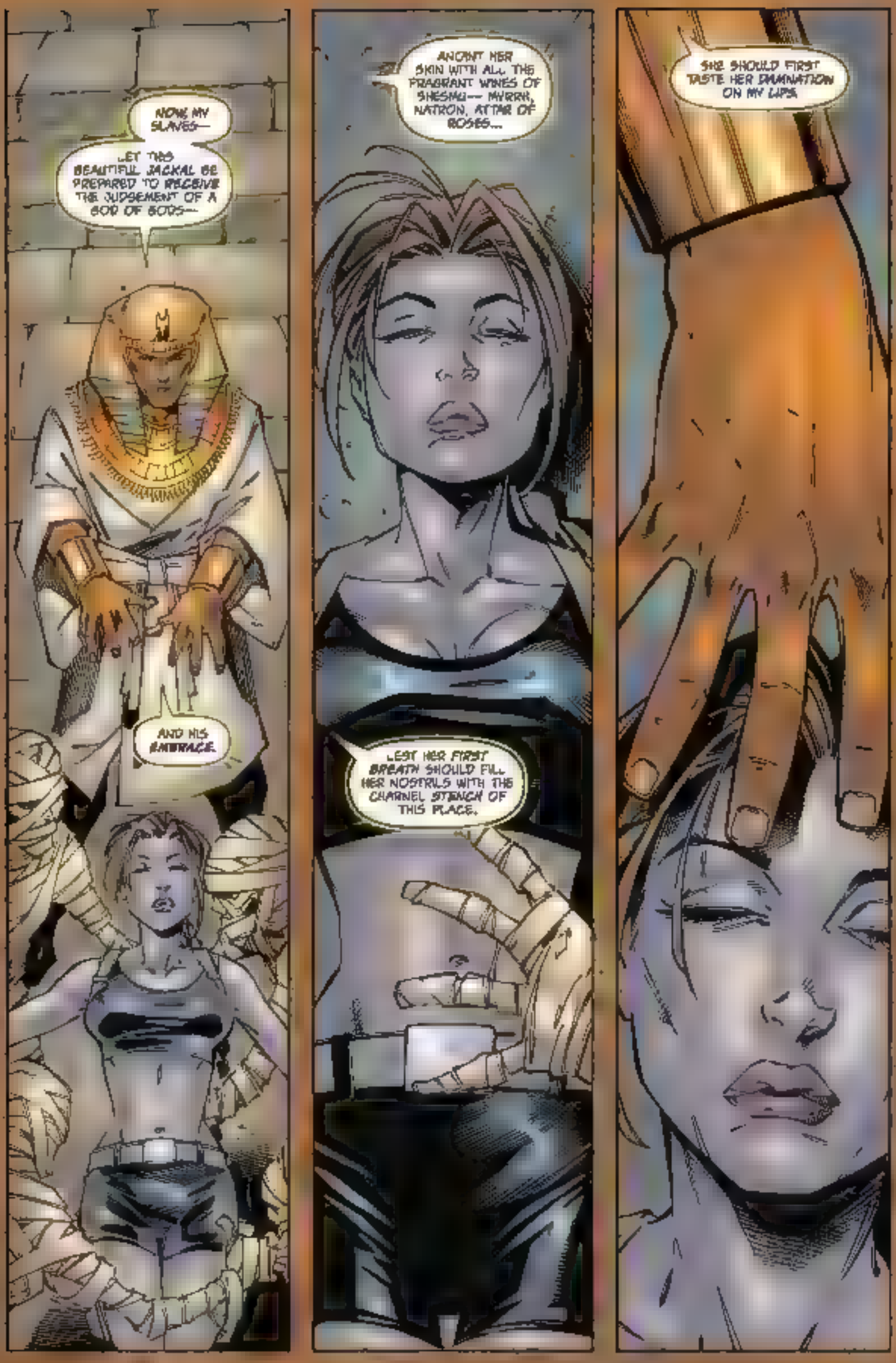
"MY VOW OF VENGEANCE HAS BEEN FULFILLED!

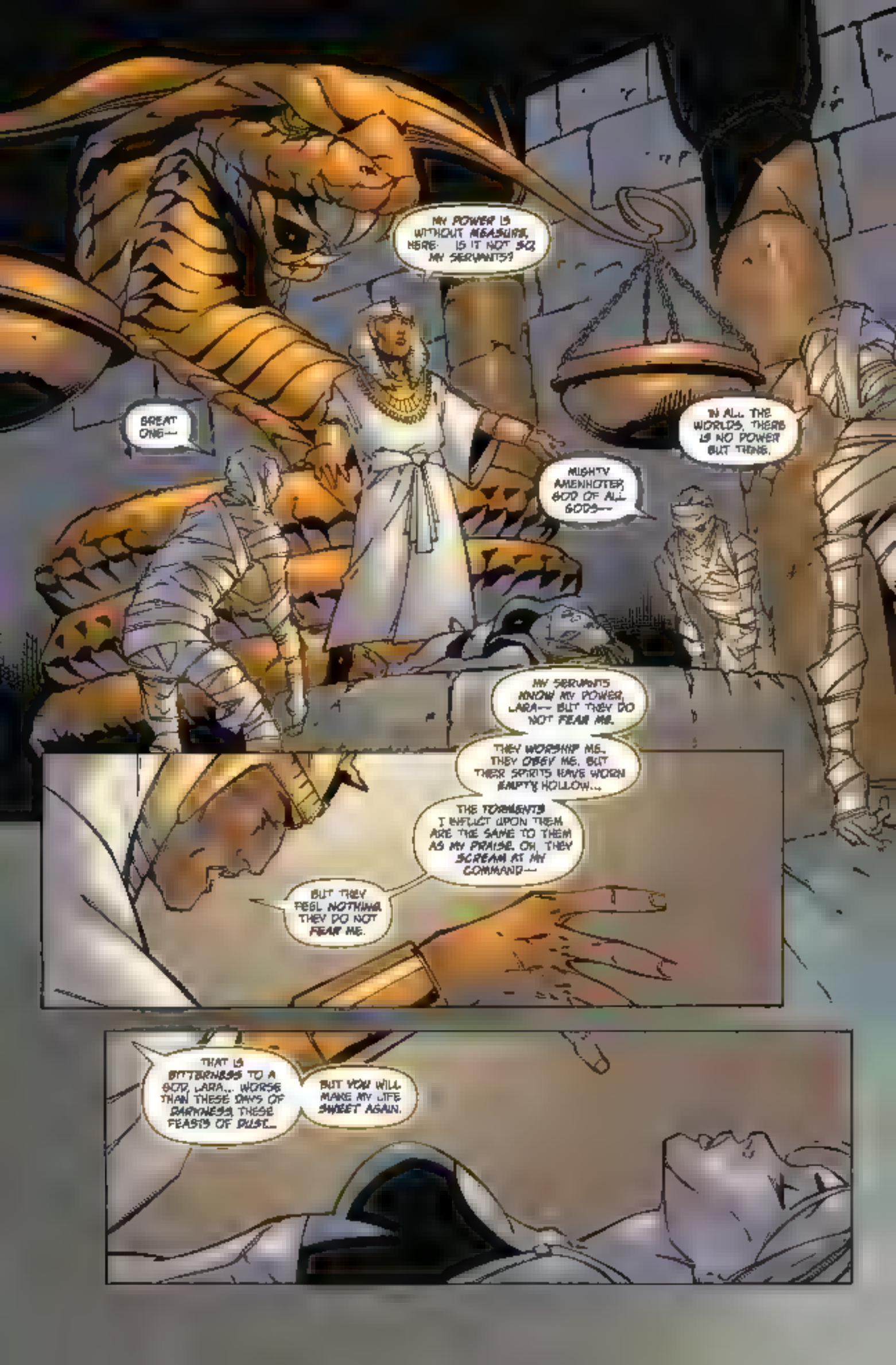
"THE VIOLATOR OF MY TOMB HAS BECOME MY BRIDE.

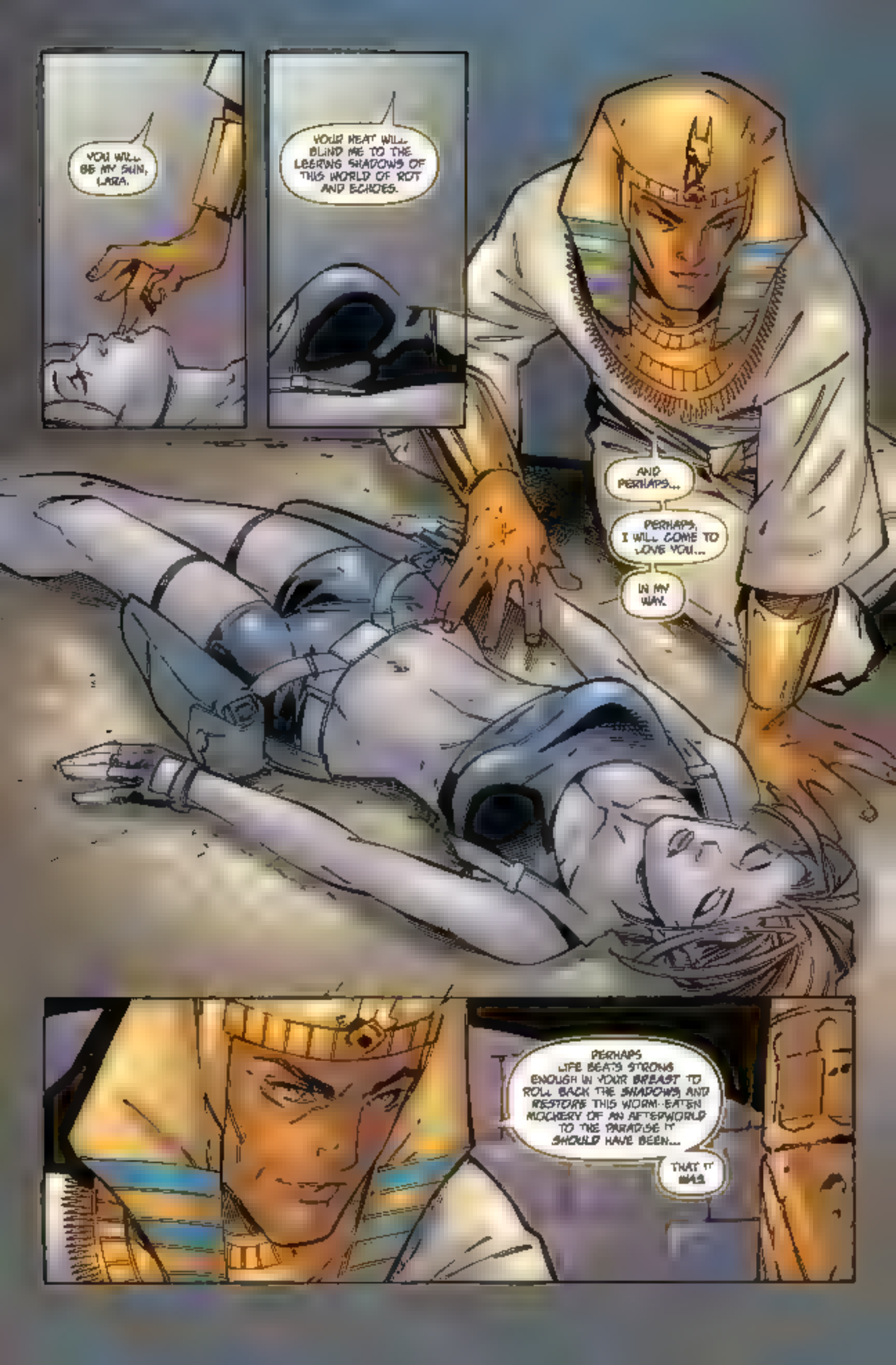
NO SHIT...
DID YOU JUST SAY ON YOURS, LARA?
KLIK
CHRIST--
I NEED TO GO HOME.
CAN I SETTLE UP?
I HAD THE MARGARITAS, I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY--
BIG GUY TOOK CARE OF IT HEY, LET ME CALL YOU A CAB.
UHHH...
BIG GUY SAID HE'D BREAK MY ARMS IF I DIDN'T.
AND LESS THAN A DAY AFTER THE SO-CALLED TOMB RAIDER'S ALLEGED RAMPAGE AND ASSUMED DEATH--
NEWS 5
SEEKING OVER SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS IN REPARATIONS--
THE CITY OF NEW YORK FILED SUIT TODAY AGAINST THE ESTATE OF THE FORMERLY-CELEBRATED ARCHAEOLOGIST, LARA CROFT--
--FOR THE HOLOCAUST THAT SHOOK THE CITY TO ITS FOUNDATIONS AND BELOW, THIS WEEK

THERE IS HEATED SPECULATION CONCERNING THE FATE OF THE CROFT COLLECTION. SHOULD THE CITY'S SUIT PROVE SUCCESSFUL, THE CITY COULD TRANSFER THE COLLECTION HERE—
OR LIQUIDATE IT.
THE VALUE OF THE CROFT ESTATE IS UNKNOWN— BUT MISS CROFT'S PERSONAL COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY EXPERTS AS "PRICELESS."
SEVERAL PARTIES HAVE ALREADY PLACED BIDS WITH THE CITY FOR THE COLLECTION—
NEWS 5
THE HIGHEST, RUMOR HAS IT, BY THE NOTORIOUS BRITISH RECLUSE, LORD ASHRAM WYNDER.
I HATE PEOPLE.
WE ARE A LOST CAUSE.

COBRA-HEADED MERSEGER MAY HAVE SHOWN YOU MERCY WHEN YOU PLUNDERED MY TOMB IN THE WORLD ABOVE, LARA CROFT—
BUT SHE WHO LOVES SILENCE HAS NO POWER IN THE SUNLESS CAVERNS OF THE DUAT, WHERE AMENHOTEP IS GOD OF GODS!
COUNTLESS TIMES HAVE YOU ENTERED THE DUAT TO STEAL FROM US, THE EATERS OF DUST—
THE DEAD AND THE UNDEAD WHO HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN BY THE WORLD ABOVE.
WE WHOSE NAMES HAVE BECOME LESS THAN SHADOWS IN THE DESERT SANDS OF TIME.
AND NOW THE KNOWLEDGE BE A CURSE UPON YOU IN THE ETERNITY OF DAMNATION, WHICH AWAITS YOU—
YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE YOU BELONG HERE!
THIEF!
YOU HAVE CHOSEN THIS.

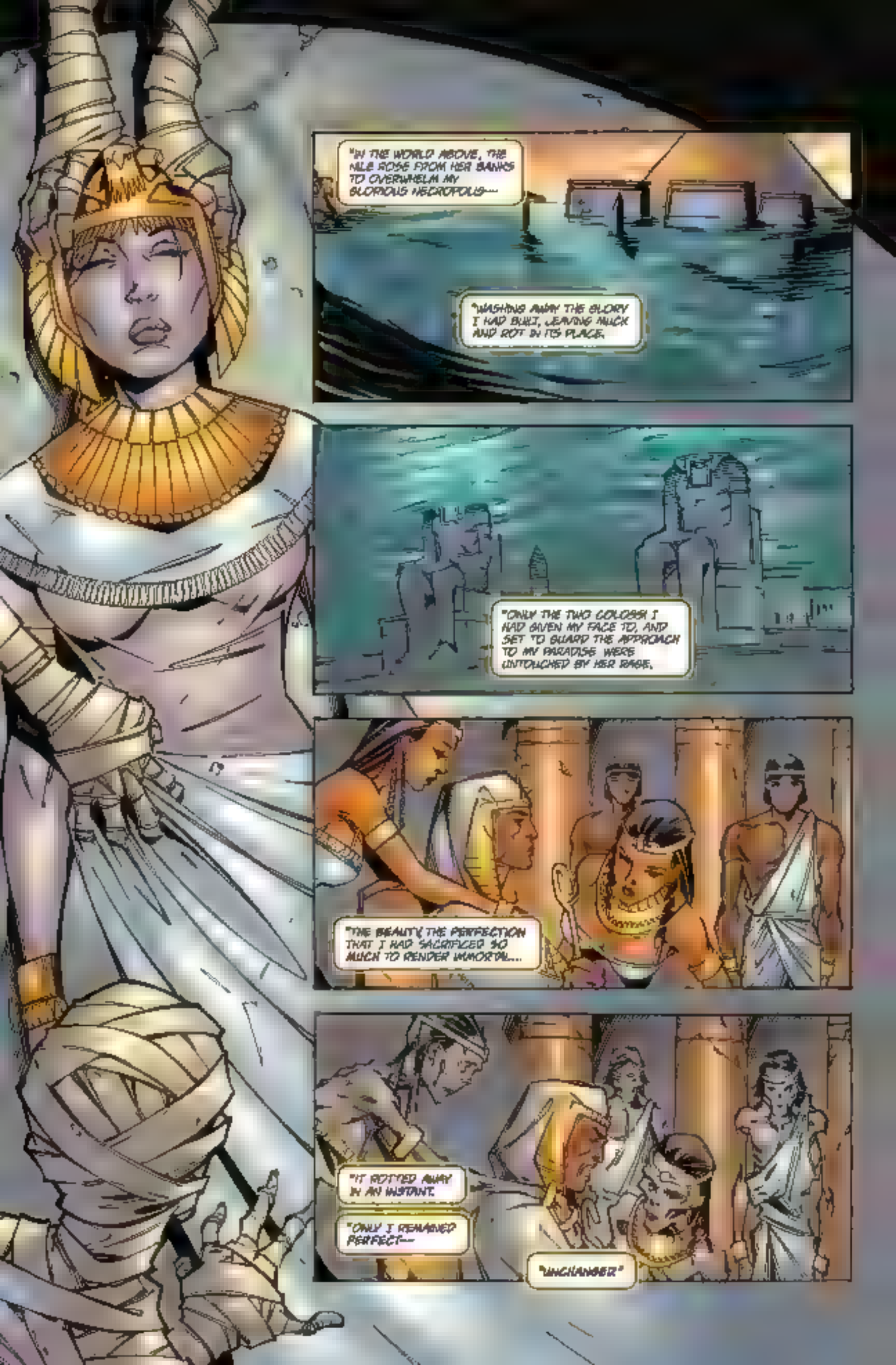

NOW, MY SLAVES—
LET THIS BEAUTIFUL JACKAL BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE JUDGEMENT OF A GOD OF GODS—
AND HIS EMBRACE.
ANOINT HER SKIN WITH ALL THE FRAGRANT WINES OF SHESMU— MYRRH, NATRON, ATTAR OF ROSES...
LEST HER FIRST BREATH SHOULD FILL HER NOSTRILS WITH THE CHANNEL STENCH OF THIS PLACE.
SHE SHOULD FIRST TASTE HER DAMNATION ON MY LIPS.


MY POWER IS WITHOUT MEASURE, HERE. IS IT NOT SO, MY SERVANTS?
GREAT ONE—
IN ALL THE WORLDS, THERE IS NO POWER BUT THINE.
MIGHTY AMENHOTEP, GOD OF ALL GODS—
MY SERVANTS KNOW MY POWER, LARA— BUT THEY DO NOT FEAR ME.
THEY WORSHIP ME. THEY OBEY ME. BUT THEIR SPIRITS HAVE WORN EMPTY, HOLLOW...
THE TORMENTS I INFLICT UPON THEM ARE THE SAME TO THEM AS MY PRAISE. OH, THEY SCREAM AT MY COMMAND—
BUT THEY FEEL NOTHING. THEY DO NOT FEAR ME.
THAT IS BITTERNESS TO A GOD, LARA... WORSE THAN THESE DAYS OF DARKNESS, THESE FEASTS OF DUST...
BUT YOU WILL MAKE MY LIFE SWEET AGAIN.


YOU WILL BE MY SUN, LARA.
YOUR HEAT WILL BLIND ME TO THE LEERING SHADOWS OF THIS WORLD OF ROT AND ECHOES.
AND PERHAPS...
PERHAPS, I WILL COME TO LOVE YOU...
IN MY WAY.
PERHAPS LIFE BEATS STRONG ENOUGH IN YOUR BREAST TO ROLL BACK THE SHADOWS AND RESTORE THIS WORM-EATEN MOCKERY OF AN AFTERWORLD TO THE PARADISE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN...
THAT IT WAS.

"THE TIME THAT MEN CALL LIFE IS NOTHING. A TIME TO PREPARE FOR LIFE, TO PROVIDE FOR ETERNITY—
"THE TRUE LIFE BEGINS WITH DEATH.
"THE PHARAOHS OF MY LINE WHO HAD PASSED INTO ETERNITY BEFORE ME, BUILT TOMBS TO SATISFY THEIR NEEDS IN THE AFTERWORLD.
"I BUILT A CITY WITH THE BLOOD OF TEN THOUSAND SLAVES, AND THE PAIN OF MORE..
"THE PHARAOHS WHO HAD GONE BEFORE ME FILLED THEIR TOMBS WITH SHABTIS TO SERVE THEM IN THE AFTERWORLD—
"CRUDE CLAY TOYS ANIMATED BY SPELLS.
"I PEOPLED MY DEATH-CITY WITH SERVANTS WORTHY OF A GOD.
"MY COUNCILORS, MY SLAVES, MY FRIENDS—
"THE HUNDREDS OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN WHO FEARED AND WORSHIPPED ME...
"ALL JOINED ME IN MY DEATH, LARA."
THEY HAVE LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN.
BUT PERHAPS YOU CAN REMIND THEM HOW TO FEAR, LARA. HOW TO SCREAM...

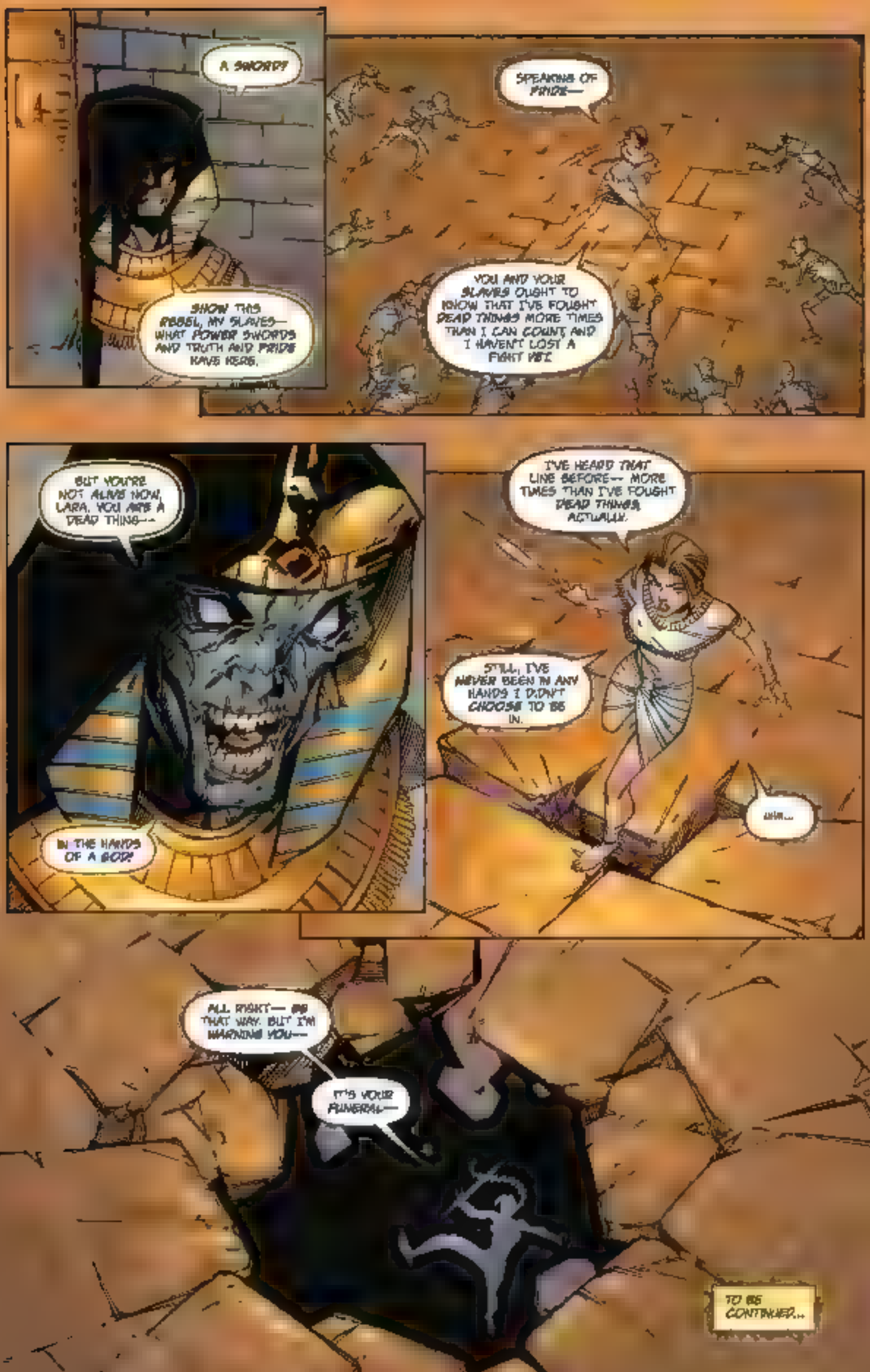
"YOU SEE, I WAS CHEATER.
"I HAD PREPARED FOR THE AFTERWORLD—
"AS NO PHARAOH BEFORE ME HAD EVER PREPARED.
"I WAS A PHARAOH! A GOD—
"AND THE SON OF A GOD!
"BUT NO SOONER HAD I BEEN SEALED INTO MY NECROPOLIS, TO BEGIN MY ETERNAL REIGN—
"WHEN THE WEIGHER OF SOULS CAME TO ME.
"DARK ANUBIS— IF INDEED THE TRAITOR WAS ANUBIS— BROUGHT NO SCALES WITH HIM TO WEIGH MY SOUL AGAINST MAAT, THE FEATHER OF TRUTH.
"HE HANDED THE FEATHER TO ME, AS THOUGH I WERE HIS SERVANT, A BEAST OF BURDEN—
"MAY HE BURN UPON THE PLAIN OF SEKHET FOR ALL ETERNITY, AS I NOT HERE!
AND MY WORLD CHANGED
"AND I TOOK IT."


"IN THE WORLD ABOVE, THE NILE ROSE FROM HER BANKS TO OVERWHELM MY GLORIOUS NECROPOLIS—
"WASHING AWAY THE GLORY I HAD BUILT, LEAVING MUCK AND ROT IN ITS PLACE.
"ONLY THE TWO COLOSSI I HAD GIVEN MY FACE TO, AND SET TO GUARD THE APPROACH TO MY PARADISE WERE UNTOUCHED BY HER RAGE.
"THE BEAUTY, THE PERFECTION THAT I HAD SACRIFICED SO MUCH TO RENDER IMMORTAL...
"IT ROTTED AWAY IN AN INSTANT.
"ONLY I REMAINED PERFECT—
"UNCHANGED."

BUT NOW I REGAIN THE BLISS THAT IS MY BIRTHRIGHT
THE BEAUTY. THE PLEASURE. THE PAIN.
THE FEATHER OF TRUTH THAT WAS THE INSTRUMENT OF MY DOOM--
NOW BECOMES THE SEAL OF YOURS.
---UHH---
DID SOMEONE SAY SOMETHING? WHERE'S SARA? I THOUGHT--
WHAT HAPPENED TO NEW YORK?

COME, LARA CROFT— AS OFTEN AS YOU HAVE TRESPASSED HERE—
I DO KNOW AN EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGICAL SCENARIO WHEN I SEE ONE...
SURELY YOU RECOGNIZE THE PLACE OF THE DEAD.
BUT IF YOU'RE SUGGESTING THAT I'M DEAD THEN I SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU'RE DELUSIONAL.
I WILL ADMIT TO BEING A TRIFLE COLD THOUGH, IN SPOTS...
LOOK UPON THE FEATHER OF TRUTH THAT I WEIGH AGAINST YOUR SOUL AND MOCK ME, WOMAN—
TOUCH IT!
THE FEATHER OF TRUTH?
WELL...
IF YOU INSIST...
THOUGH I REALLY MUST WARN YOU—

DEAD OR NOT, I'M A BRITON, AND TO US, TRUTH'S NOT A FEATHER—
IT'S A SWORD.


A SWORD?
SHOW THIS REBEL, MY SLAVES— WHAT POWER SWORDS AND TRUTH AND PRIDE HAVE HERE.
SPEAKING OF PRIDE—
YOU AND YOUR SLAVES OUGHT TO KNOW THAT I'VE FOUGHT DEAD THINGS MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT, AND I HAVEN'T LOST A FIGHT YET.
BUT YOU'RE NOT ALIVE NOW, LARA. YOU ARE A DEAD THING--
IN THE HANDS OF A GOD!
I'VE HEARD THAT LINE BEFORE-- MORE TIMES THAN I'VE FOUGHT DEAD THINGS, ACTUALLY.
STILL, I'VE NEVER BEEN IN ANY HANDS I DIDN'T CHOOSE TO BE IN.
UHH...
ALL RIGHT— BE THAT WAY. BUT I'M WARNING YOU—
IT'S YOUR FUNERAL—
TO BE CONTINUED...

ABYSS PART 2

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
RANDY GREEN AND JOEL GOMEZ

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
[illegible]

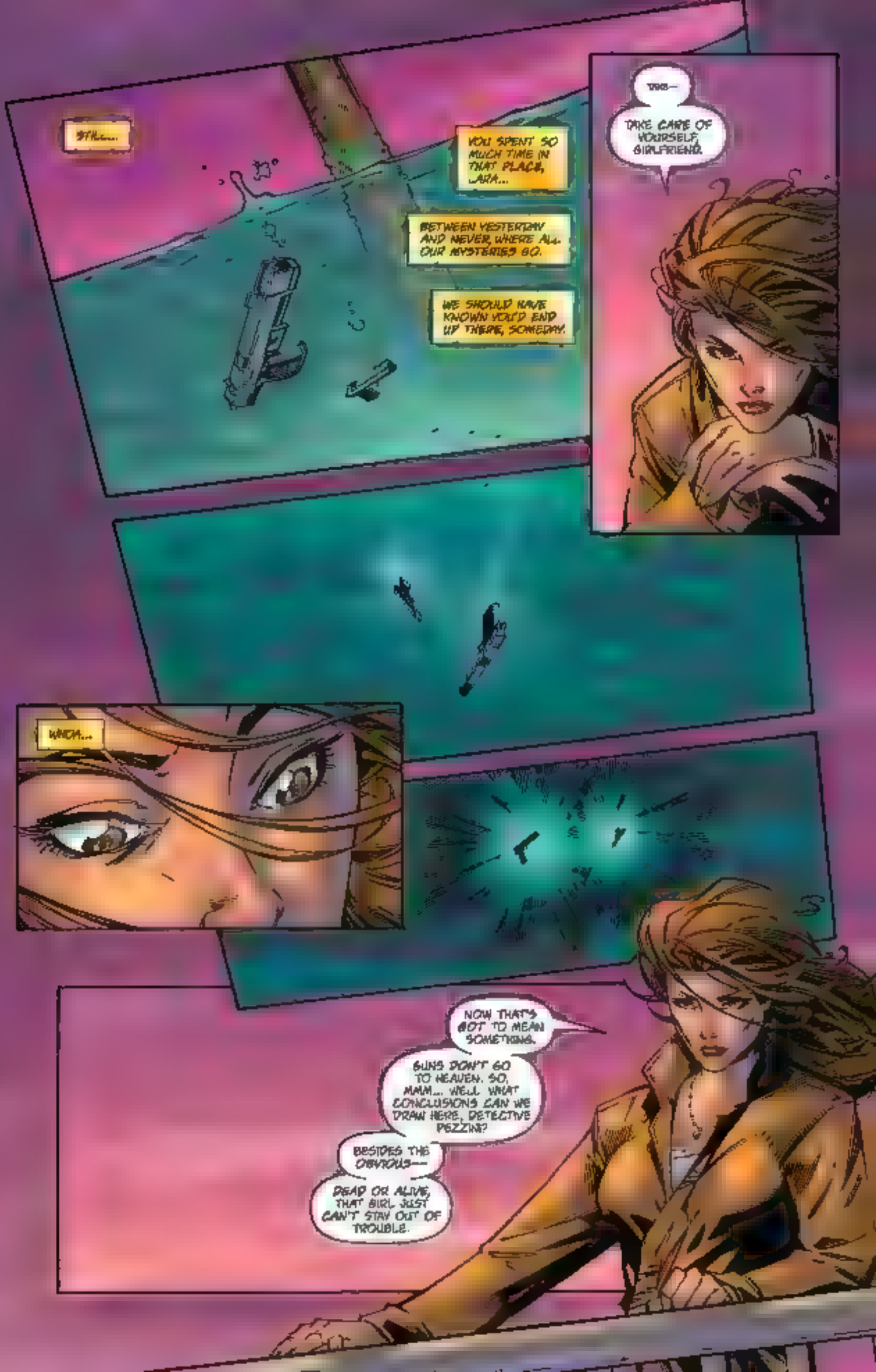
COVER PENCILS
[illegible]

COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

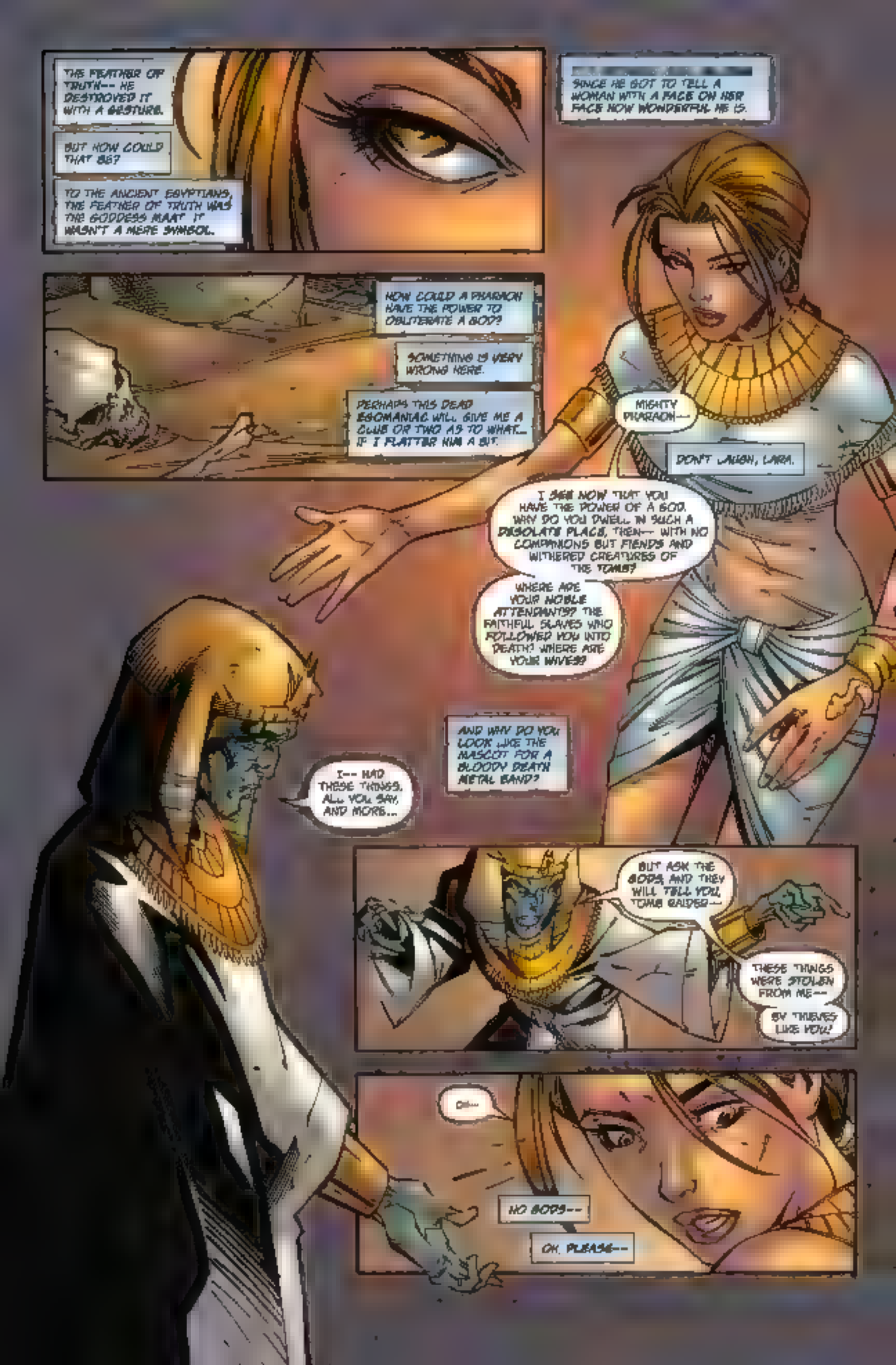
COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

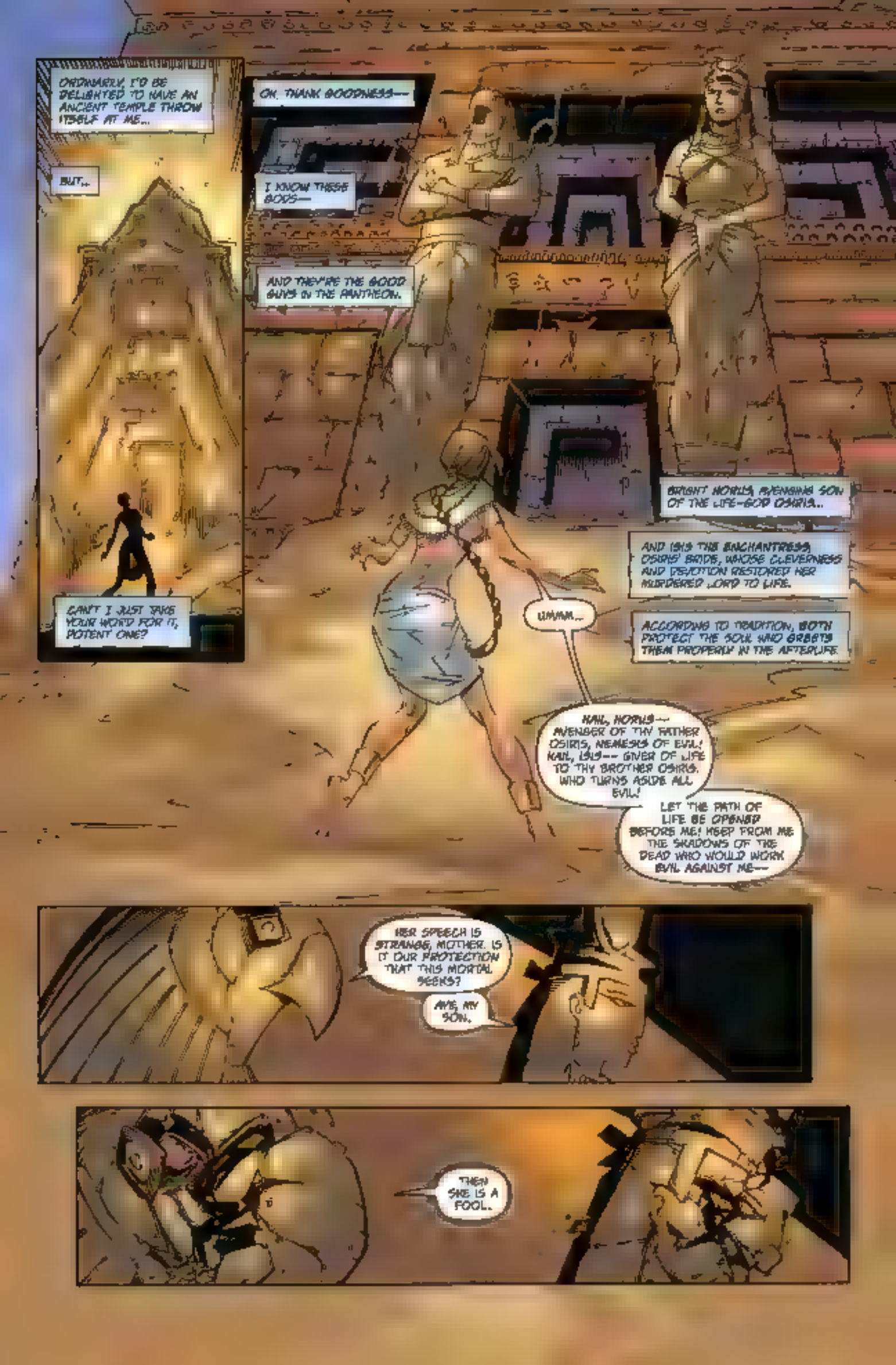
NEW YORK CITY.
SARA PEZZINI'S EYES TELL HER THAT THIS FULL MOON IS SHINING DOWN ON MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.
HER HEART TELLS HER THAT NONE OF THEM ARE LARA CROFT.
YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMEBODY SO WELL...
AND THEN THEY DIE. AND YOU FIND OUT YOU WERE SO WRONG.
NONE OF US KNEW YOU, LARA— KNEW WHO YOU REALLY WERE
WHAT KIND OF SENDOFF WOULD YOU HAVE WANTED?
A FUNERAL? A WAKE?
NO...
SOMETHING NORSE, MAYBE? DRIFTING OFF TO VALHALLA ON A BURNING LONGBOAT?

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN THESE AWAY FROM HER.
IF SHE HAD THEM THAT DAY, SHE...
SHE MIGHT STILL BE...
DAMN IT, LARA— IT'S NOT FAIR!
YOU WEREN'T EVEN YOU WHEN YOU DIED!
YOU SHOULD STILL BE ALIVE!


STILL...
YOU SPENT SO MUCH TIME IN THAT PLACE, LARA...
BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND NEVER, WHERE ALL OUR MYSTERIES GO.
WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D END UP THERE, SOMEDAY.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, GIRLFRIEND.
WINDA...
NOW THAT'S GOT TO MEAN SOMETHING.
GUNS DON'T GO TO HEAVEN. SO, MMM... WELL WHAT CONCLUSIONS CAN WE DRAW HERE, DETECTIVE PEZZINI?
BESIDES THE OBVIOUS—
DEAD OR ALIVE, THAT GIRL JUST CAN'T STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

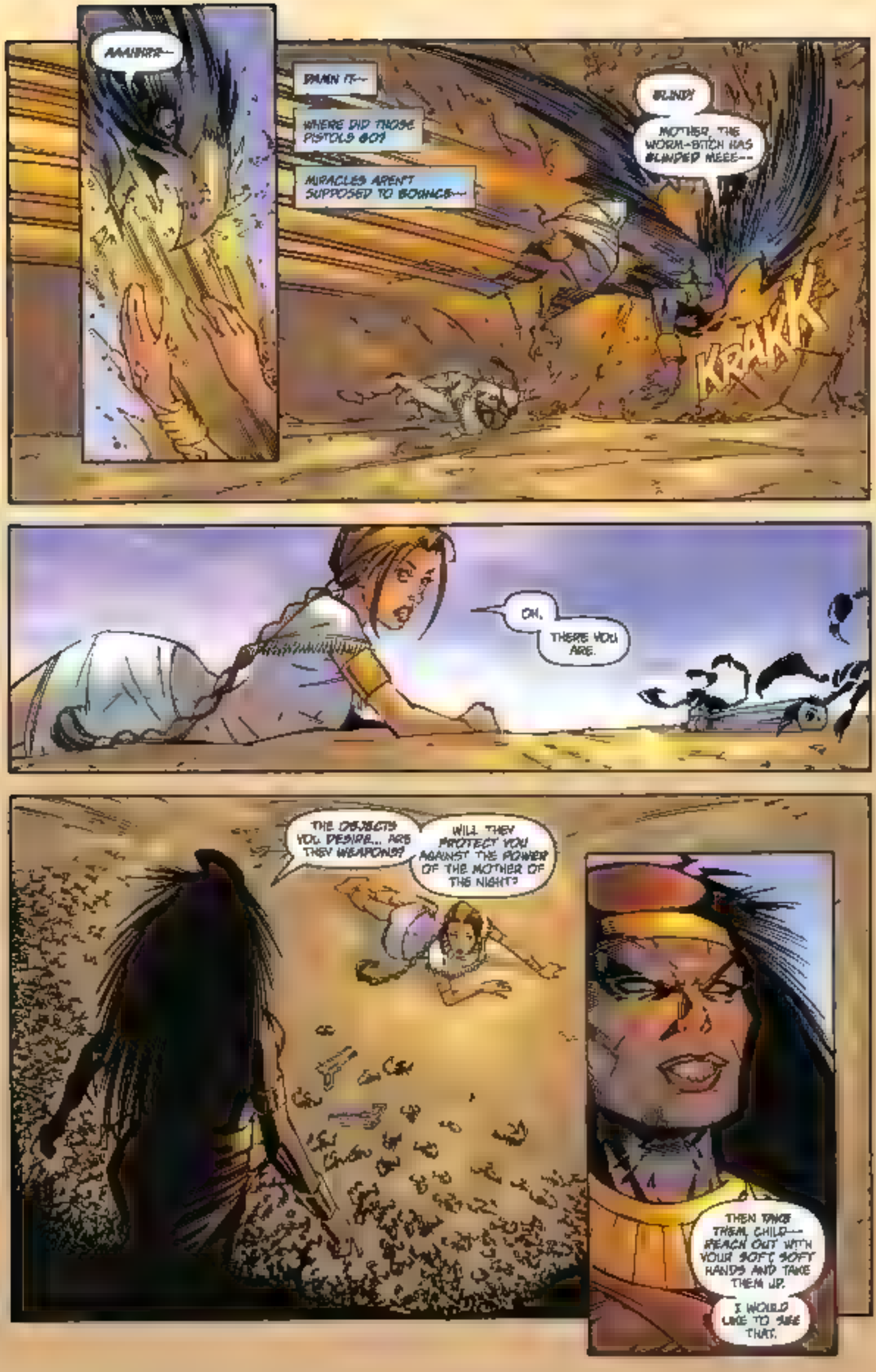
AND ELSEWHERE...
ELSEWHEREN...
IT'S ONE LETDOWN AFTER ANOTHER SO FAR.
BEING DEAD.
—UHN—
IF I AM DEAD
I WOULDN'T BE SWEATING LIKE THIS IF I WAS HAVING AN OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE.
SO... AMENHOTEP, IS IT?
AMENHOTEP THE THIRD I'D GUESS, FROM THE HIEROGLYPHS I GLIMPSED ON THE WAY DOWN...
I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED—
WHICH IS SCARCELY SURPRISING, CONSIDERING THAT YOUR EMBALMERS MUST HAVE PULLED YOUR BRAINS OUT THROUGH YOUR NOSE THREE THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE I WAS BORN.
THERE IS NO TIME HERE, TOMB RAIDER.
NOR IS THERE ANY TRUTH FOR YOU TO CLING TO—
THERE IS ONLY ME.


THE FEATHER OF TRUTH-- HE DESTROYED IT WITH A GESTURE.
BUT HOW COULD THAT BE?
TO THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS, THE FEATHER OF TRUTH WAS THE GODDESS MAAT. IT WASN'T A MERE SYMBOL.
SINCE HE GOT TO TELL A WOMAN WITH A FACE ON HER FACE HOW WONDERFUL HE IS.
HOW COULD A PHARAOH HAVE THE POWER TO OBLITERATE A GOD?
SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG HERE.
PERHAPS THIS DEAD EGOMANIAC WILL GIVE ME A CLUE OR TWO AS TO WHAT... IF I FLATTER HIM A BIT.
MIGHTY PHARAOH--
DON'T LAUGH, LARA.
I SEE NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER OF A GOD. WHY DO YOU DWELL IN SUCH A DESOLATE PLACE, THEN-- WITH NO COMPANIONS BUT FIENDS AND WITHERED CREATURES OF THE TOMB?
WHERE ARE YOUR NOBLE ATTENDANTS? THE FAITHFUL SLAVES WHO FOLLOWED YOU INTO DEATH? WHERE ARE YOUR WIVES?
AND WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE THE MASCOT FOR A BLOODY DEATH METAL BAND?
I-- HAD THESE THINGS, ALL YOU SAY, AND MORE...
BUT ASK THE GODS, AND THEY WILL TELL YOU, TOMB RAIDER--
THESE THINGS WERE STOLEN FROM ME--
BY THIEVES LIKE YOU!
OH--
NO GODS--
OH, PLEASE--

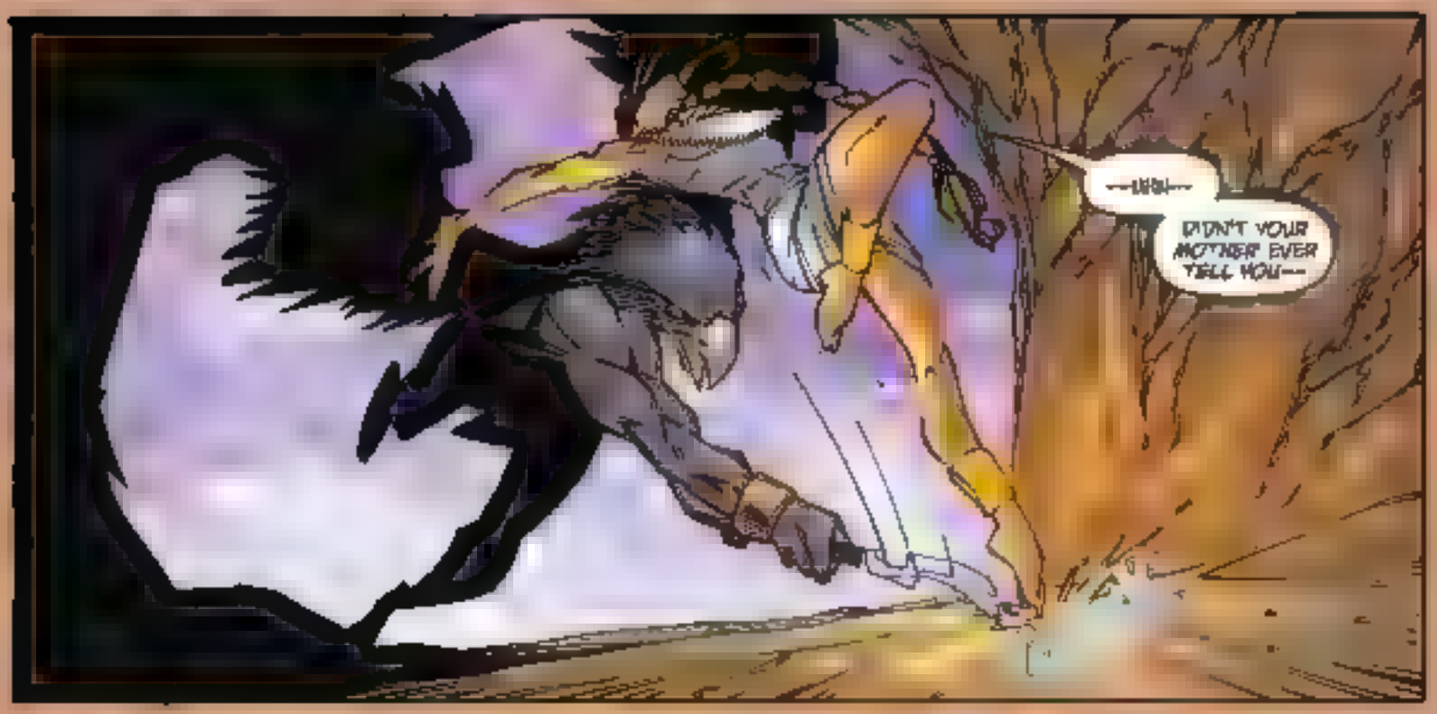

ORDINARILY, I'D BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE AN ANCIENT TEMPLE THROW ITSELF AT ME...
BUT...
CAN'T I JUST TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT, POTENT ONE?
OH, THANK GOODNESS—
I KNOW THESE GODS—
AND THEY'RE THE GOOD GUYS IN THE PANTHEON.
BRIGHT HORUS, AVENGING SON OF THE LIFE-GOD OSIRIS...
AND ISIS THE ENCHANTRESS, OSIRIS' BRIDE, WHOSE CLEVERNESS AND DEVOTION RESTORED HER MURDERED LORD TO LIFE.
ACCORDING TO TRADITION, BOTH PROTECT THE SOUL WHO GREETS THEM PROPERLY IN THE AFTERLIFE.
UMMM...
HAIL, HORUS— AVENGER OF THY FATHER OSIRIS, NEMESIS OF EVIL! HAIL, ISIS— GIVER OF LIFE TO THY BROTHER OSIRIS, WHO TURNS ASIDE ALL EVIL!
LET THE PATH OF LIFE BE OPENED BEFORE ME! KEEP FROM ME THE SHADOWS OF THE DEAD WHO WOULD WORK EVIL AGAINST ME—
HER SPEECH IS STRANGE, MOTHER. IS IT OUR PROTECTION THAT THIS MORTAL SEEKS?
AYE, MY SON.
THEN SHE IS A FOOL.

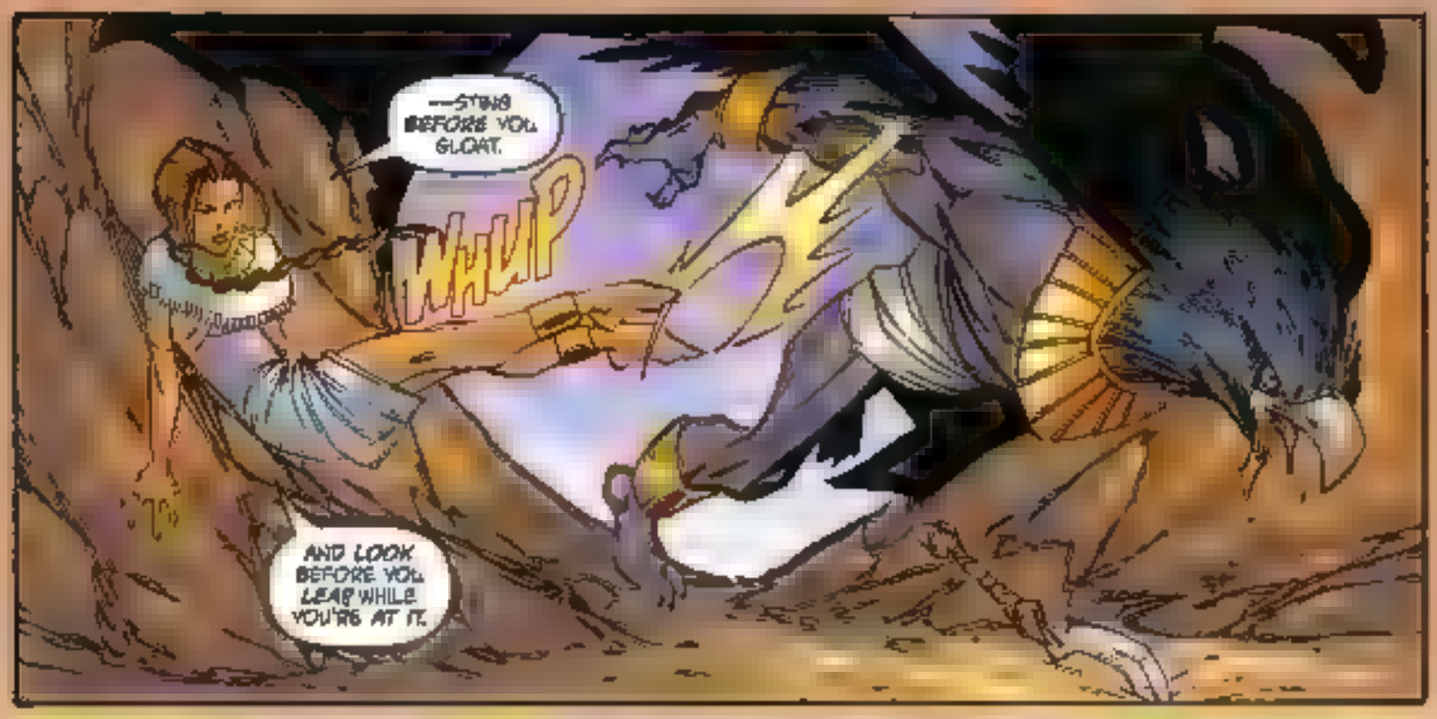
IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HELP.
BUT I WISH...
I WISH...
I SO WISH I HAD MY PISTOLS.

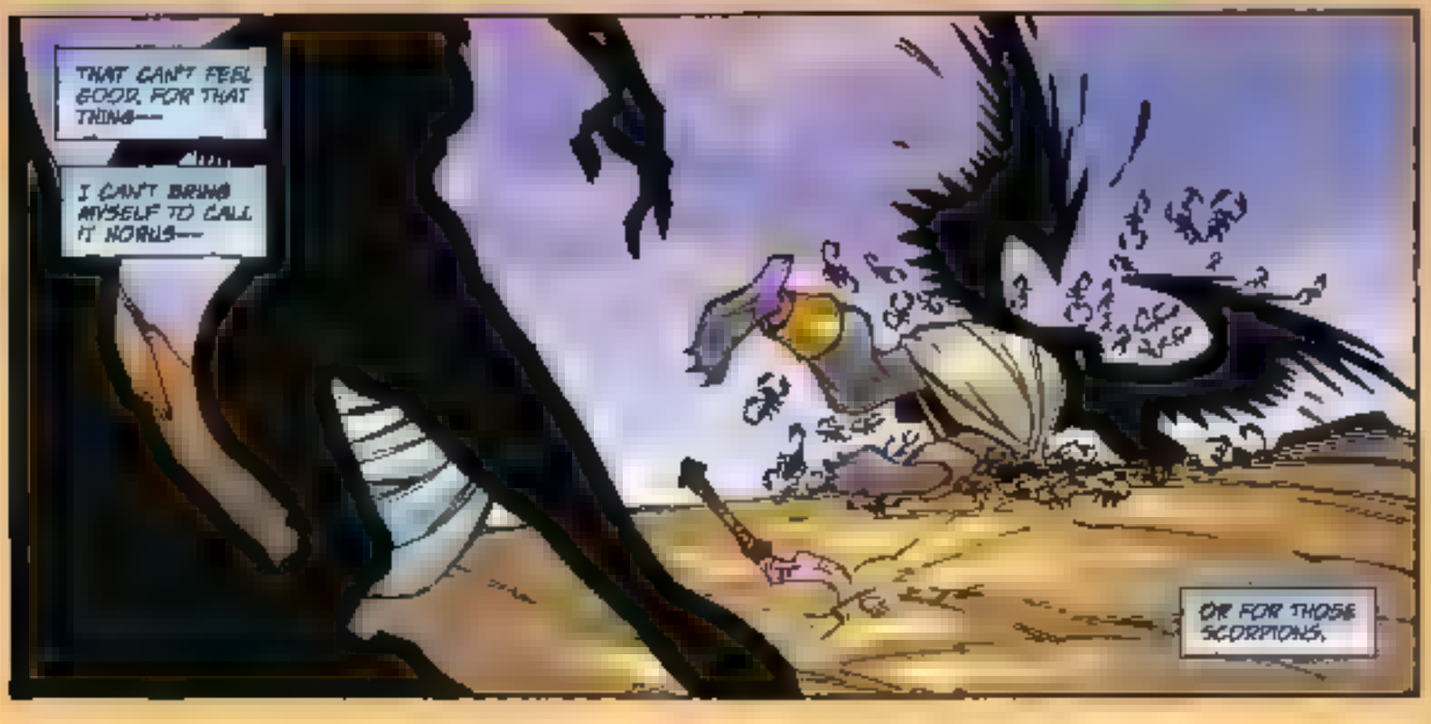
HEED NOT THE PRAYERS OF THIS DESPOILER OF TOMBS, MY KINDRED!
SEE WHAT I HAVE BECOME BECAUSE OF HER? SEE WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME?
AVENGE US--- I COMMAND YOU!
PRETTY WORM---
WRIGGLE, WORM, FOR SOON YOU'LL CRAWL---
DEAD OR NOT---
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING ANY DEADER.
WAIT--- WHAT'S THIS? IT'S RAINING SHINY---
SHINY SEMI-AUTOMATIC ANSWERS TO MY PRAYERS.
MY PISTOLS.
MY PISTOLS---
WHERE DID THEY GO?
YES, WORM---
NOW COMES THE CRAWLING. THE SOFT SCREAMING---
SETTLE FOR SAND?


AAAIIIEE--
DAMN IT--
WHERE DID THOSE PISTOLS GO?
MIRACLES AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BOUNCE--
BLIND!
MOTHER, THE WORM-BITCH HAS BLINDED MEEE--
KRAKK
OH.
THERE YOU ARE.
THE OBJECTS YOU DESIRE... ARE THEY WEAPONS?
WILL THEY PROTECT YOU AGAINST THE POWER OF THE MOTHER OF THE NIGHT?
THEN TAKE THEM, CHILD--- REACH OUT WITH YOUR SOFT, SOFT HANDS AND TAKE THEM UP.
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT.

YOUR SCORPIONS, MOTHER—
THE WORM FEARS THEIR LITTLE STINGS.
YOU AGAIN—
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T HEAR YOU CREEP UP. OR SMELL YOU—
I HAVE A STING TOO, WORM. FOR YOU TO TASTE—


---UGH---
DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER EVER TELL YOU---


---STAB BEFORE YOU GLOAT.
WHUP
AND LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

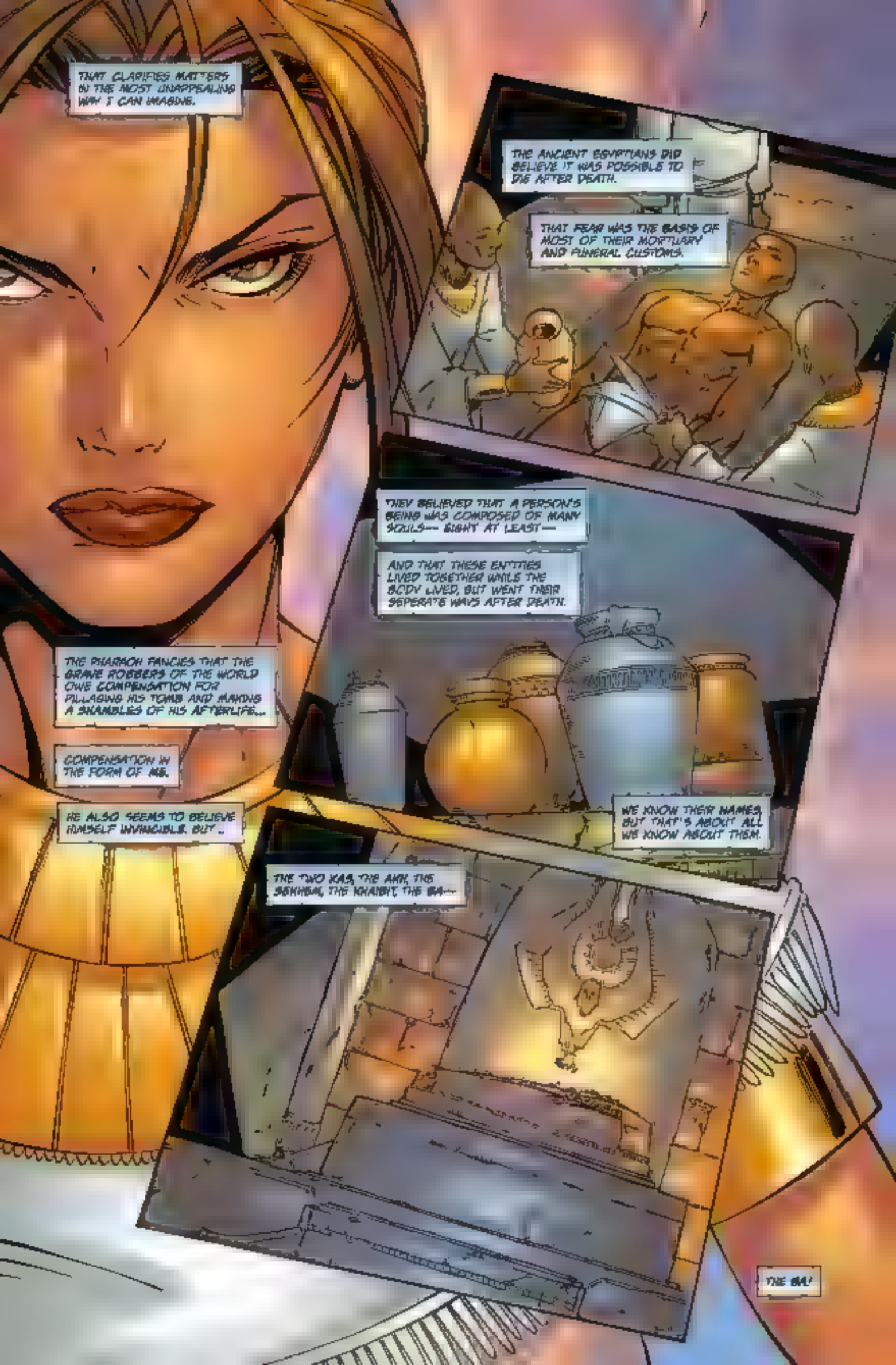

THAT CAN'T FEEL GOOD, FOR THAT THING---
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO CALL IT HORUS---
OR FOR THOSE SCORPIONS.

NOT THAT I'M PRONE TO FEELING SORRY FOR SCORPIONS.
NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--
I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D GET YOUR TAILS AWAY FROM MY PISTOLS--
AND ME.
WELL, I FEEL BETTER NOW.
HOW ABOUT YOU?

BRAVE WORDS, CHILD--- BUT THEY RING HOLLOW... AS YOUR BONES SHALL BE WHEN THE CLAWS OF MY CHILDREN HAVE SCRAPED AWAY THEIR MARROW.
I SEE THE FEAR YOU CANNOT HIDE. THE TREMBLING OF YOUR HANDS...
ACTUALLY?
I'M NOT SO MUCH TREMBLING AS HEFTING--- GETTING THE FEEL OF THESE?
AND YOU'LL NOTICE I'M SMILING!
KOOM KOOM
I'VE GOT TWENTY-SIX BULLETS.
TWENTY-FOUR.

LAUGH... THEN LOOK AROUND YOU, JACKAL.
ETERNITY STILL AWAITS YOU AND YOU ARE STILL HERE.
HERE WITH ME.
THAT'S ODD...
NOT THAT ANYTHING HERE CAN'T.
BUT THE PHARAOH HASN'T STIRRED A STEP SINCE HE BROUGHT ME HERE.
IT COULD BE THAT HE'S LAZY
OR THERE COULD BE A DEEPER REASON.
THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS ATTACHED GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE LOCATION OF THE OBJECTS IN THEIR TOMBS...
THEMSELVES INCLUDED
HONESTLY MIGHTY PHARAOH...
I CAN'T TAKE MY WRETCHED FATE TOO SERIOUSLY WHEN I SEE YOU STANDING THERE, FLAPPING YOUR ARMS LIKE A GOOSE.
COME TO ME, LARA... AND I MAY LEAVE THAT CLEVER TONGUE OF YOURS INSIDE YOUR MOUTH.
COME NOW.

KOOM KOOM
YOU ARE AN UTTER PIG.
LEAVE MY TONGUE OUT OF THIS.
THIS IS NOT BATTLE, LARA. BETWEEN US...
THIS IS PLAY.
I TOUCH YOU WITH THE TALONS OF THE GODS I'VE FOUND HERE IN THE DUST AND DARKNESS...
YOU REACH BACK TO CARESS ME WITH DELICATE FINGERS OF BURNING LEAD.
THE END WILL BE THE SWEETER FOR THESE LITTLE STRUGGLES, LARA. SWEETER FOR YOU AND FOR ME...
BUT IN THE END YOU WILL BE MY SOLACE IN THIS PLACE OF ENDLESS NIGHT AND CORRUPTION.
MY COUCHMATE--
MY QUEEN.


THAT CLARIFIES MATTERS IN THE MOST UNAPPEALING WAY I CAN IMAGINE.
THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS DID BELIEVE IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DIE AFTER DEATH.
THAT FEAR WAS THE BASIS OF MOST OF THEIR MORTUARY AND FUNERAL CUSTOMS.
THEY BELIEVED THAT A PERSON'S BEING WAS COMPOSED OF MANY SOULS— EIGHT AT LEAST—
AND THAT THESE ENTITIES LIVED TOGETHER WHILE THE BODY LIVED, BUT WENT THEIR SEPERATE WAYS AFTER DEATH.
THE PHARAOH FANCIES THAT THE BRAVE ROBBERS OF THE WORLD OWE COMPENSATION FOR PILLAGING HIS TOMB AND MAKING A SHAMBLES OF HIS AFTERLIFE...
COMPENSATION IN THE FORM OF ME.
HE ALSO SEEMS TO BELIEVE HIMSELF INVINCIBLE. BUT..
WE KNOW THEIR NAMES, BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL WE KNOW ABOUT THEM.
THE TWO KAS, THE AKH, THE SEKHEM, THE KHAIBIT, THE BA—
THE BA!

I OBEY, POTENT ONE
EH?
FORGIVE ME, I KNEW ONLY THAT YOU WERE ANGRY WITH ME
THAT'S IT.
I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D DO ME THE HONOR OF MAKING ME YOUR QUEEN.
HE DOES HAVE A WEAKNESS.
HIS BA.
THE LITTLE BIRD WHOSE JOB IT IS TO BRING HIM AIR AND FOOD IN THE UNDERWORLD.

THE HELLCAT SHEATHS HER CLAWS AND PURRS?
AM I TO BELIEVE THIS?
THE HELLCAT WANTS TO SINK HER CLAWS INTO YOUR BA, DEAR
AND IF SHE HAS TO DO A BIT OF PURRING TO GET INSIDE YOUR TOMB, WELL...
PURR PURR.
CAN'T YOU READ MY MIND? LOOK INTO MY EYES, THEN..
I... LIKE THIS FEELING, MIGHTY-ONE. IT'S NEW TO ME.
SURRENDER...
MMMMMM...

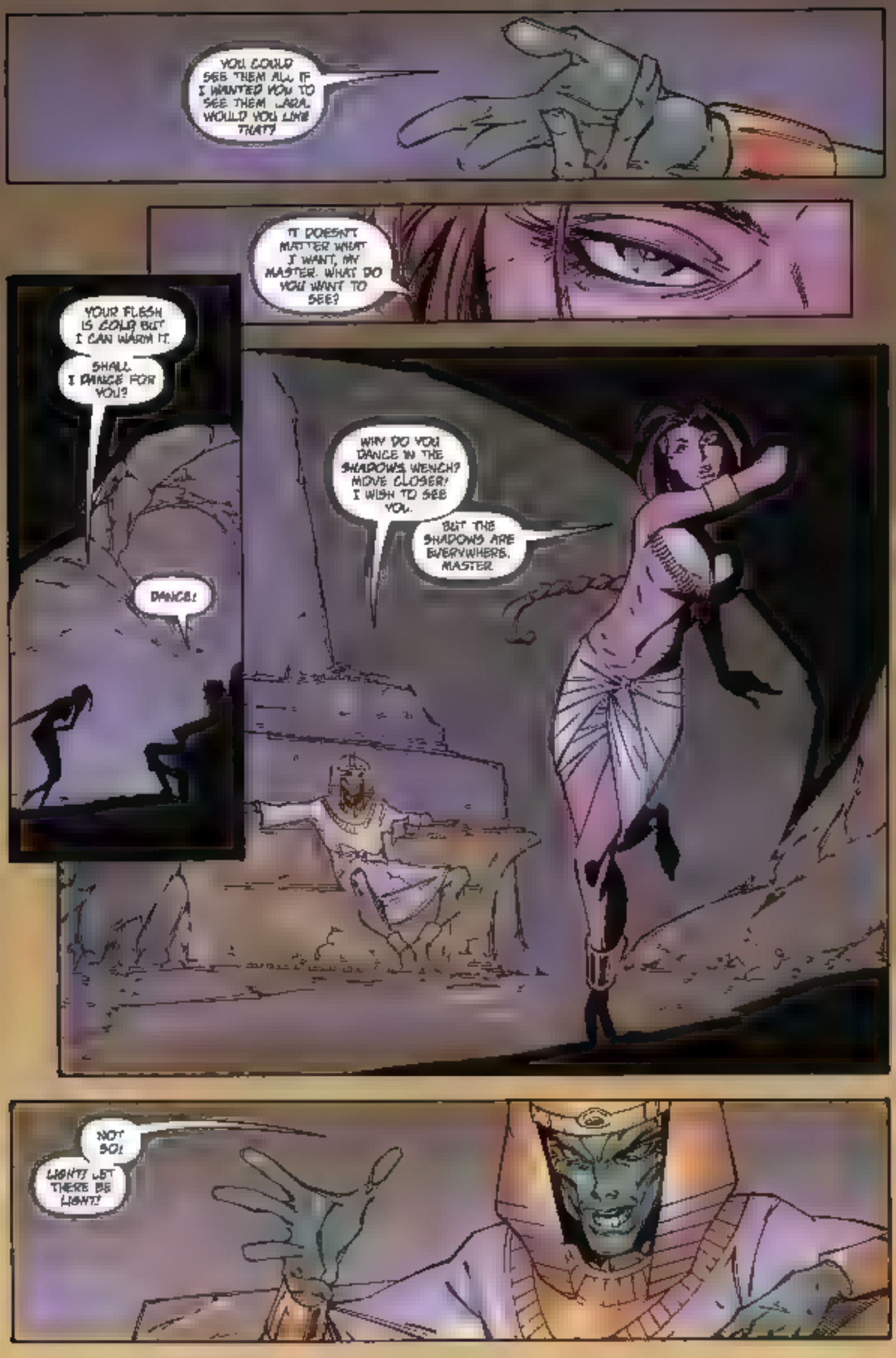
COME, THEN--
SSSSSHHHH
GRRRMMMMBLLLE
THE DUST IS THICK AND SOFT UPON MY TOMB.
SO EAGER?
DO YOU NOT FEAR WHAT MIGHT FIND YOU IN THE DARK?
NO, POTENT ONE...
I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FIND IN THE DARK.
THESE CEILINGS ARE SO HIGH, AND THE SHADOWS ARE SO DEEP.
BUT I HEAR SOMETHING... LIKE WINGS ABOVE US.
WHAT IS IT?

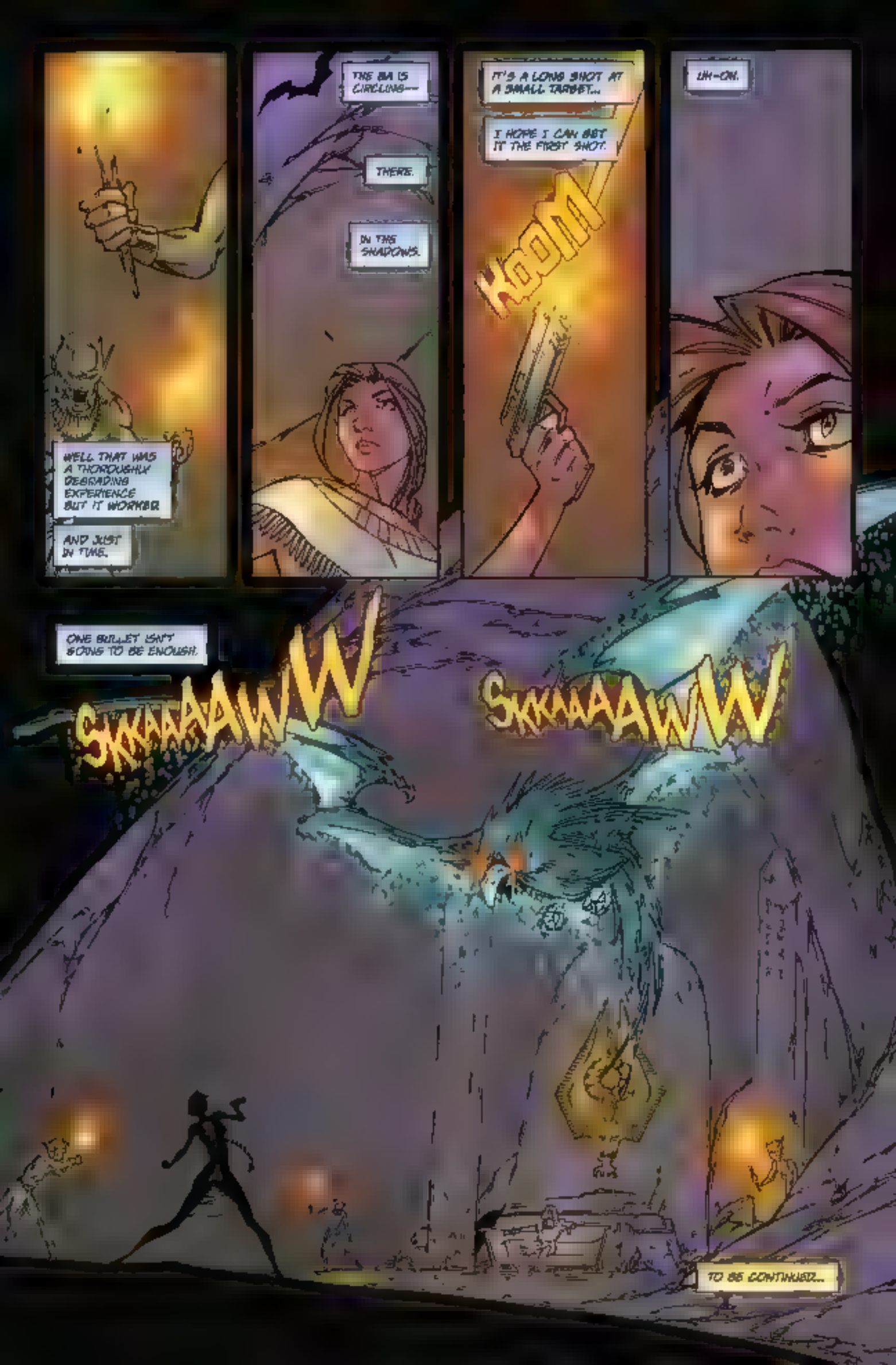
I HEAR NOTHING BUT THE DRUMMING OF YOUR HEART AND THE DRAGGING OF YOUR FEET.
WHERE IS YOUR EAGERNESS NOW, WENCH?

"QUEEN" ONE MOMENT, "WENCH" THE NEXT.
THIS IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE NINETY-SECOND COURTSHIPS, I HAVE THE FEELING...
WITH NO POETRY.
MIGHTY PHARAOH—
THERE IS SOMETHING HERE WITH US.
I HEAR WINGBEATS, FEATHERS BRUSHING STONE...

I NEED MORE LIGHT IN HERE.
THERE ARE TORCHES ALONG THE WALL
BUT THEY'RE NOT LIT...
IT IS MY EAR YOU HEAR, LARA CROFT

BUT YOU NEEDN'T BE CONCERNED THERE ARE WORSE THINGS WAITING IN THE DARK CRAWLING OUT OF MY MIND INTO THE DUST...


YOU COULD SEE THEM ALL IF I WANTED YOU TO SEE THEM LARA. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I WANT, MY MASTER. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE?
YOUR FLESH IS COLD BUT I CAN WARM IT.
SHALL I DANCE FOR YOU?
DANCE!
WHY DO YOU DANCE IN THE SHADOWS, WENCH? MOVE CLOSER! I WISH TO SEE YOU.
BUT THE SHADOWS ARE EVERYWHERE, MASTER.
NOT SO!
LIGHT! LET THERE BE LIGHT!


WELL THAT WAS A THOROUGHLY DEGRADING EXPERIENCE BUT IT WORKED.
AND JUST IN TIME.
THE BA IS CIRCLING--
THERE.
IN THE SHADOWS.
IT'S A LONG SHOT AT A SMALL TARGET...
I HOPE I CAN GET IT THE FIRST SHOT.
KOOM
UH-OH.
ONE BULLET SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
SKKAAAAWW
SKKAAAAWW
TO BE CONTINUED...

ABYSS PAR

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
SCOTT BENEFIEL

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
AND DENNIS HEISLER

COVER ART
CLARENCE LANSANG

OUCH—
WELL...
SKREE
I WAS WISHING FOR A TARGET I COULD HIT.
I SHOULD HAVE WISHED FOR A ROCKET LAUNCHER WHILE I WAS AT IT
IT SEEMS YOUR TREACHERY HAS GAINED YOU A DANCING PARTNER, TOMB RAIDER AND I WONDER...
WILL YOU FIND THE TOUCH OF MY BIG TALONS MORE TO YOUR LIKING THAN THE TOUCH OF MY HANDS?
SPEAKING HYPOTHETICALLY I'D IMAGINE SO.
I DEFINITELY COULDN'T LIKE IT LESS—
SLISH
AAH—
GET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT, LARA.
DODGE FIRST. MOUTH OFF SECOND.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PLACE?
BIRDS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE TEDDY BEARS OF THE EGYPTIAN AFTERLIFE...
NOT BLOODY ASSAULT HELICOPTERS.
JUST FOR THE RECORD MIGHTY PHARAOH...
...THE ANSWER IS YES.
REEEEEK
KOOM
I'D RATHER PLAY TAG WITH YOUR VULTURE THAN TOUCH YOU.
IT'S CIRCLING BACK
ABOVE THE TORCHES.
KOOM
HRRAWKK
THE FIRE MAY DO WHAT MY FIREPOWER HASN'T...
PFF
PFF
IF I CAN CLIP ITS WINGS BEFORE IT'S PAST THEM--

SPOT ON.
BUT HOW MANY BULLETS DOES THAT LEAVE ME?
AAAKKKK
THOOM
NINETEEN?
POOR DEAR.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT YOU'RE A MONSTER.
KREKK-K-K
BETTER LUCK NEXT LIFE, PET.
KOOM

NOW, MIGHTY PHARAOH-- YOU'VE GOT NO BA TO BRING YOU SUSTENANCE IN THIS MISERABLE PLACE.
I SUGGEST YOU COMPOSE YOURSELF AND CONSERVE WHATEVER LIFE-ENERGY YOU HAVE LEFT--
LEAVE ME ALONE, IN OTHER WORDS.
OH DEAR.
DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE... THAT I WILL STARVE?
WASTE AWAY WITHOUT MY BA?
CAN A PLAGUE DIE OF SICKNESS?
CAN A WAR BLEED TO DEATH?

I AM NOT A MAN, TOMB RAIDER-- I AM NOT A GOD!
I AM ABOVE THE GODS!
YOU'RE INSANE.
I AM HUNGER!
AND I WILL NOT BE DENIED!

KKKSKRUSH

KKKSKRAK

OH MY GOD, THE COLOSSI OF MEMNON, BUT

MY COLOSSI COULD NOT PROTECT THE RICHES OF MY TOMB FROM YOUR KIND IN THE WORLD ABOVE...

BUT YOU COULD NOT STEAL THEM FROM ME EITHER, COULD YOU?

AND HERE THEY ARE MORE THAN LIFELESS STONE CARVED IN MY IMAGE—

THEY ATE MY HANDS—

THEN YOU'D BEST GAIN SOME ALTITUDE, MS. CROFT...

AND HOPE THOSE BULLETS CAN'T CLIMB WALLS AS WELL AS THEY CAN SMASH THEM.

WHAT CAN WE TAKE FROM YOU TO SETTLE THE DEBT YOU OWE US, BRAVE ROBBER?
YOU HAVE SO LITTLE.
THE EMERALDS OF YOUR EYES? THE IVORY OF YOUR SKIN?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO JUSTIFY THIS SADISM, I WISH YOU'D MAKE A BETTER JOB OF IT.
I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PILLAGING OF YOUR TOMB, AMENHOTEP...
THOUGH I MUST SAY THAT I'D HAVE GIVEN IT A NICE COAT OF GRAFFITI, THE LAST TIME I VISITED THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS...
IF I'D KNOWN WHAT A BASTARD YOU WERE.
SKCHH

KRAAK
UH-OH...
THIS COLOSSUS IS MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN ITS MASTER.
IT'S SNAPPING THE STATUE OFF ITS PEDESTAL...
THE STATUE YOURS TRULY IS CLIMBING ON.
OH YESSS, LARA...
RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN, LITTLE BIRD-- CLIMB AS HIGH AS YOU DARE. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WITHIN MY REACH.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D DIE WITH MY SHADES ON...
AND WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DIGNITY.
MY PEOPLE HAVE MANY SAYINGS ABOUT LITTLE BIRDS, MIGHTY PHARAOH.
"A BIRD IN THE HAND--
IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH."
I MAY BE WITHIN YOUR REACH. BUT YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME.
I'M EXCEPTIONALLY DETERMINED. WHILE YOU'RE MERELY INSANE.
SILENCE HER!
CRUSH HER LIKE AN INSECT! BRING THE WALLS DOWN IF YOU MUST!

PERHAPS THE COLOSSI ARE MORE INTELLIGENT THAN THEIR MASTER...

BUT THEY DO OBEY HIM.

NO! NO! NOT THE WALL! PLEASE--

I'LL BE CRUSHED! LIKE AN INSECT--

OR NOT

KATHOOM

DEAD MEN ARE EVEN MORE GULLIBLE THAN LIVE ONES, APPARENTLY.

FATHER TAUGHT ME THIS.

WHEN THE SITUATION IS HOPELESS--

CHANGE THE SITUATION.

AREN'T YOU DONE YET?
WHISH
AND AN INESCAPABLE PRISON MAY NOT BE SO INESCAPABLE.
ONCE IT'S HAD A HOLE PUNCHED IN ITS WALL.
THE NEAT STAIRWAY OF RUBBLE LEADING TO THE HOLE IS A PLUS.
I HADN'T ANTICIPATED THAT.
OR THIS.
I UNDERSTAND NOW.

TAKE A LAST LOOK AT THE STARS, MIGHTY PHARAOH--
OR A FIRST LOOK, AS THE CASE MAY BE.
IT'S OVER.
THIS GAME IS OVER. I WILL TOY WITH YOU NO LONGER, WOMAN--
YOU'LL TOY NO LONGER-- FEROX YOU SEE...
I KNOW NOW WHY THIS PLACE IS AS IT IS. AND I CAN SET YOU FREE.
IF YOU HAVE THE COURAGE... OR IF YOU DON'T ACTUALLY.

WHY? WHY WOULD YOU HELP ME? UNLESS—
THIS IS A RUSE. A TRICK...
I WISH I WERE A SADIST, OCCASIONALLY.
BUT I'M NOT.
AND WHILE I DO HAVE A TEMPER, I'M NOT ANGRY WITH YOU, NOW—
"POOR LITTLE PUPPET...
"YOU'RE NOT TO BLAME FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
"YOU'RE BITTER BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ALIVE.
"BUT YOU NEVER WERE."

THE THINGS YOU KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR LIFE...
MIGHTY ONE.
YOU DON'T TRULY REMEMBER THEM, DO YOU?
"THEY'RE ONLY STORIES YOU READ--"
"ON THE WALLS OF THIS TOMB."
NO...
NO!
"YOU'VE BEEN THE USHABTI THAT WERE BURIED NEAR THE SARCOPHAGUS OF AMENHOTEP"
"THE ANSWERER?"
I'LL BET YOU A SILVER SCARAB FOR EVERY YEAR I'VE BEEN AN ARCHAEOLOGIST -- NOT A JACKAL OR DESPOILER OF GRAVES--
HERE'S ONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN.
BEHIND THIS ODDLY-PLACED BAS-RELIEF OF NEHEBKAU, HE WHO JOINS THE SPIRIT-DOUBLE TO UMM... WHATEVER THE SPIRIT-DOUBLE IS JOINED TO, A GOD WHO'S ALSO THE GUARDIAN OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERWORLD.

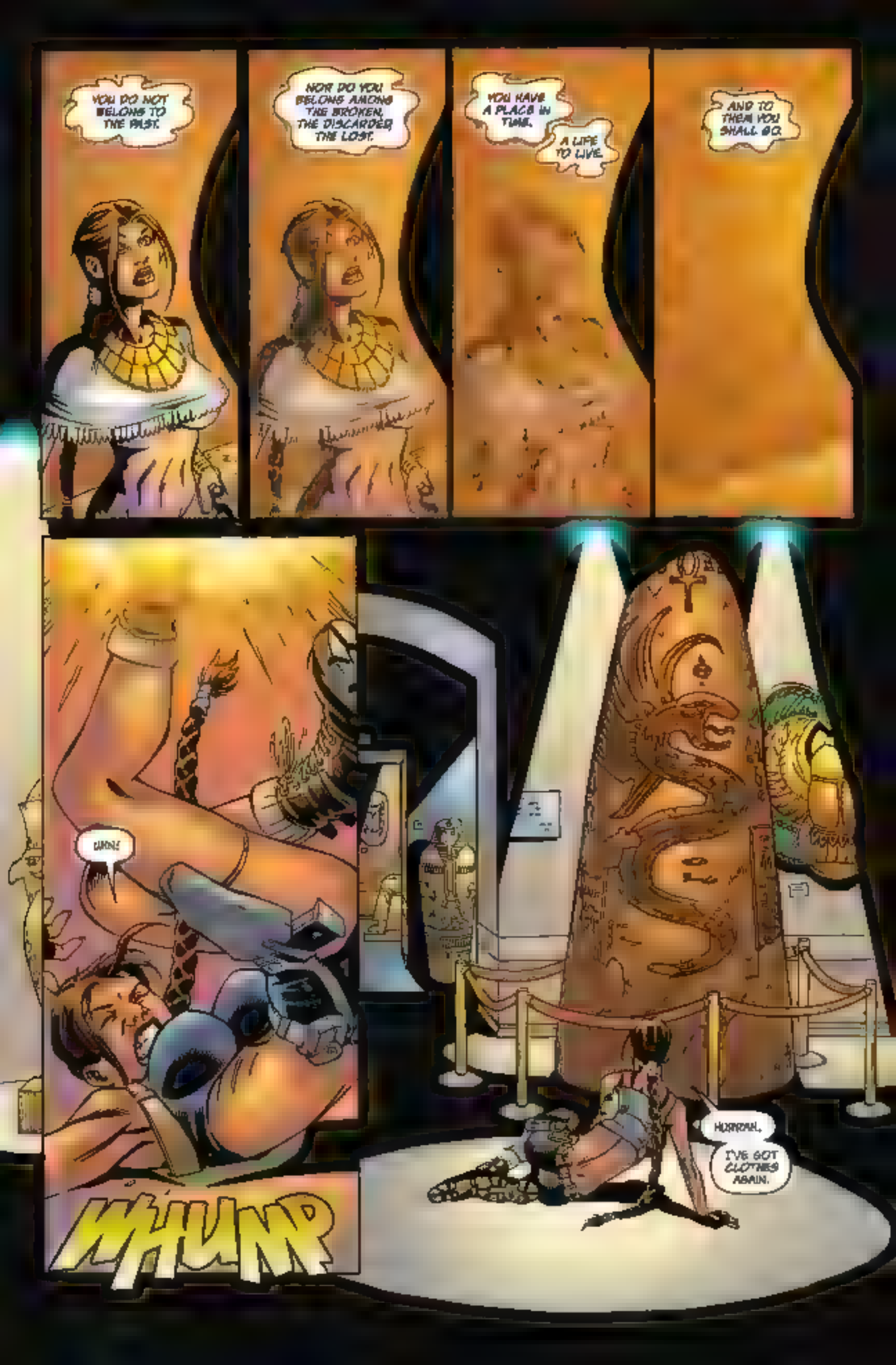
"LIKE THE OTHERS, IT'S A DOLL--"
A MAGICAL SURROGATE FOR A HUMAN BEING--
MEANT TO SERVE THE PHARAOH IN THE AFTERLIFE.
THIS PHARAOH TOOK THE IDEA A STEP BEYOND TRADITION, THOUGH.
THE EGYPTIANS DIDN'T BELIEVE IN SIN AS SUCH-- BUT THEY DID BELIEVE IN RETRIBUTION AFTER DEATH.
A MAN WHO LIED DURING LIFE WOULD HAVE HIS BONES BROKEN.
A GREEDY MAN WOULD HAVE HIS GUTS TORN OUT BY SOME NASTY BEAKED THING.
A MAN WHO STOLE WOULD BURN, AND SO ON.
AMENHOTEP MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT HE COULD AVOID HIS FAIR SHARE OF THAT UNPLEASANTNESS IE.
GUESS WHAT?
HM...
THIS BOX IS EMPTY.

OF COURSE IT'S EMPTY.
I DON'T WANT TO HAND YOU THIS. THAT WOULD BE SILLY OF ME.
BUT I DO WANT YOU TO SEE IT.
MIGHTY ONE, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE AFTERLIFE STUNT DOUBLE OF THE PHARAOH AMENHOTEP THE THIRD—
HIS WHIPPING BOY. HIS STAND-IN...
YOU.
NO!
JACKAL, YOU LIE! I—
YOU ARE IN DENIAL.

BUT YOU CAN SEE THAT YOUR POWER DOES END WHERE THIS USHTABI BEGINS, CAN'T YOU?
NO?
WELL, IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THE TRUTH ANY OTHER WAY, PERHAPS WE SHOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY.
KRISH
TO SHOCK THERAPY!

BUT I AM!
I AM A GOD!
A GOD ABOVE ALL GODS!
HSSSSHHHH
I—
YOU WERE A BAD LITTLE PUPPET.
IT'S A PITY YOU NEVER GOT TO SEE PINOCCHIO.
WHO KNOWS? IF YOU'D PLAYED YOUR CARDS DIFFERENTLY—
"PERHAPS A GOOD FAIRY WOULD HAVE MADE YOU A REAL BOY SOMEDAY."

THAT'S OVER AND DONE WITH. HURRAH.
NOW I CAN GET BACK TO BEING RECENTLY DECEASED...
OR WHATEVER KIND OF DEAD I AM.
UHM...
NEMBOKAI?
TRKK
TSHHHK
YOU'RE THE GUARDIAN OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERWORLD, AREN'T YOU? SO...
WHAT KIND OF DEAD WOULD YOU SAY I AM?
NOT.


YOU DO NOT BELONG TO THE PAST.
NOR DO YOU BELONG AMONG THE BROKEN, THE DISCARDED, THE LOST.
YOU HAVE A PLACE IN TIME.
A LIFE TO LIVE.
AND TO THEM YOU SHALL GO.
UHNH!
KHUMP
HUHNNH.
I'VE GOT CLOTHES AGAIN.

MUSEUMS.
I ADORE MUSEUMS.
WHERE RELICS BEHAVE LIKE RELICS. SIT ON SHELVES, HANG ON WALLS...
THE PHARAOHS MIND THEIR MANNERS...
AND SPEAKING OF MANNERS...
OH IT'S NOT SARA'S FAULT THAT I WAS KILLED.
I OUGHT TO CALL HER.
Phone
IT'S PROBABLY UPSET HER MORE THAN IT'S UPSET ME.
BOZZ
BOZZ
LARA!
OHMYGODLARAOHGOD I'MSOSORRYIHADTO--
YOU ARE ALIVE AREN'T YOU? OH GOD LARA, I FELT SO BAR IT'S SO GREAT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
--UHM--
YOU'D BETTER STAY AT MY PLACE.
CROFT MANOR
YOU DON'T HAVE ONE ANYMORE.
TO BE CONTINUED!

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
[redacted]

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL AND JASON GORDER

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
[redacted]

COVER ART
EIDOS CORE

SUSSEX, ENGLAND.
VANESHALL.
Benelli
LORD VANES—
HMMMM.
I'M COMING FOR YOU.

FIRST, YOU TOOK TSUNAMI.
MY ALMOST--
COULD HAVE BEEN--
SHOULD HAVE BEEN--

THEN, YOU TOOK CROFT MANOR...
MY ANCESTRAL HOME.
AND MY FATHER'S LEGACY TO ME...
THE CROFT COLLECTION.
MY PURPOSE. MY OBSESSION...
MY PRIDE.
YOU STOLE THAT, TOO.

I HOPE YOU ARE A GOD, VIMES.
IT WOULD BE A PITY—
IF I COULD ONLY DESTROY YOU ONCE.

BATH.
SUSSEX, ENGLAND.
SPARROW & SON
THE NEXT MORNING.
MR SPARROW. GOOD MORNING.
YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.
WELCOME, MISS CROFT.
I'D SAY IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, IF I WEREN'T AWARE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH BRING YOU HERE.
THANK YOU.
STILL...
THE CROFTS HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN BEING PREPARED, EH?
FOR THE UNFORSEEN...
I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE WE SEE SO MUCH OF IT.
LIVING AS WE DO...

I'LL BE VISITING THE LESSER VAULT TODAY.
OF COURSE
MISS CROFT?
WHERE YOU FOLLOWED HERE?
NO.
THAT'S DISTURBING. HMMM. .
PERHAPS YOU'D BEST STEP INTO THE CONFERENCE ROOM?
YOU HAVE A CALL.

LARA.

YOU'LL PARDON THE INTIMATE ADDRESS, WON'T YOU?

I FEEL AS THOUGH IT'S APPROPRIATE, AFTER ALL THE YEARS AND LAUGHTER WE TWO HAVE SHARED.

SOMEDAY SOON WE'LL SPEAK FACE TO FACE, LORD JYMES.

AFTER WHICH, I THINK IT LIKELY YOU'LL NO LONGER FANCY YOURSELF IMMORTAL.

OR DIVINE.

YOU'RE DIFFICULT TO KILL, LARA.

AND I RESPECT THAT... TENACITY. IT'S AN ATTRIBUTE WE SHARE.

BUT YOU WILL BEAR IN MIND AT ALL TIMES THAT I AM A GOD— AND CONDUCT YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY.

OR I WILL SEW THOSE DELECTABLE BEE-STUNG LIPS OF YOURS TOGETHER WITH CATGUT AND A RUSTY NEEDLE.

LOOK AT ME!
IT IS YOUR FAULT THAT I REMAIN TRAPPED IN THIS BLOATED CANCEROUS WHIMSABLE BODY.
YOU CLOSED THE PATH OF THE TIGER TO ME!
DENIED ME ACCESS TO THE ANCIENT HOME OF THE REGIA, AND THE APPARATUS OF SOUL-TRANSFER THAT WOULD HAVE PERMITTED ME TO CLOTHE MY MAGNIFICENT ESSENCE IN A LOVELY, TOUCHABLE NEW BODY—
A STOLEN BODY.
YEH
A BODY TO INSPIRE THE CARNAL ADORATION, THE SENSUAL WORSHIP THAT A GOD SUCH AS MISSILE REQUIRES.
THE POINT, VYMES.
OR I'M HANGING UP.

I'VE GIVEN THE SITUATION A GREAT DEAL OF CONSIDERATION, LADY DEATH.
WHY DON'T WE LET BYGONES BE BYGONES?
I HAVE SETTLED YOUR DEBT WITH THE CITY OF HIGH ROCK.
I AM RELINQUISHING TO VICTORIS GROFT MANOR AND THE GROFT COLLECTION TO YOUR CUSTODY AND TO ABANDON MY VENDETTA AGAINST YOU—
IF YOU WILL ONLY PROCLAIM FOR ME THE WITCH OF WRATH—
WHAT?
AND THE WITCH OF LIFE. A FEW LITERS OF EACH WOULD SUFFICE.

IMPOSSIBLE.
I COULDN'T IF I WISHED TO— WHICH I DON'T.
THEY'RE NOT EVEN MYTHICAL. THEY'RE A FAIRYTALE.

AS FOR YOUR OFFER—
YOU CAN TAKE IT TO HELL WITH YOU, WHEN YOU GO.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE HOUSE OR THE COLLECTION.

YOU KILLED TSAVA.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT.

BUT YOUR LOVER ISN'T BEAR, BEAR.
HE'S NOT QUITE... INTACT, SHALL WE SAY, BUT HE'S LIVELY ENOUGH.
THE WATER OF DEATH. THE WATER OF LIFE.
I WANT THEM, LARR—
BUT HE NEEDS THEM.

I COULD HOLD HIM TOGETHER PERPETUALLY BUT I WON'T.
YOU WILL BRING US THE WATERS IN THIS WEEKS, LARK—
OH I WILL END THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR HIGHWORK LOVER AND INTIME ONE THAT WILL BE MORE PLEASURABLE TO ME.
I WAY CONSTANTLY LARK AND I DO LIKE TO PLAY WITH MY FOOD.

THAT APPALLING CREATURE WAS LORD VYMEST OF VYMESHALL?
I'M AFRAID SO.
THAT'S QUITE DISTRESSING. VYMESHALL IS JUST DOWN THE ROAD FROM US, YOU KNOW.
A CHANGE OF PLANS, MR SPARROW... I'LL BE VISITING THE GREAT VAULT TODAY.
OF COURSE. I'LL ESCORT YOU, IF I MAY. WE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL, EH? UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES...
HUFF.
WERE YOU, AWARE, MISS CROFT THAT YOUR FAMILY WAS ONE OF THE FIRM'S ORIGINAL CLIENTS?
HUFF.
AND WHO WERE THE OTHERS?
OH GENTLEMEN IF OUR OWN ANCESTORS! ILK- HIGHWAY MEN, SMUGGLERS, PRIVATEERS. THE FIRM'S POLICIES FORBID ME TO MENTION NAMES.
OF COURSE.

DO YOU REQUIRE MY ASSISTANCE, MISS CROFT?
NO THANK YOU.
I ONLY NEED TO PICK UP A BIT OF CASH AND A MAP..
STICK
K-CHIK K-CHIK
AND A FEW TOOLS.

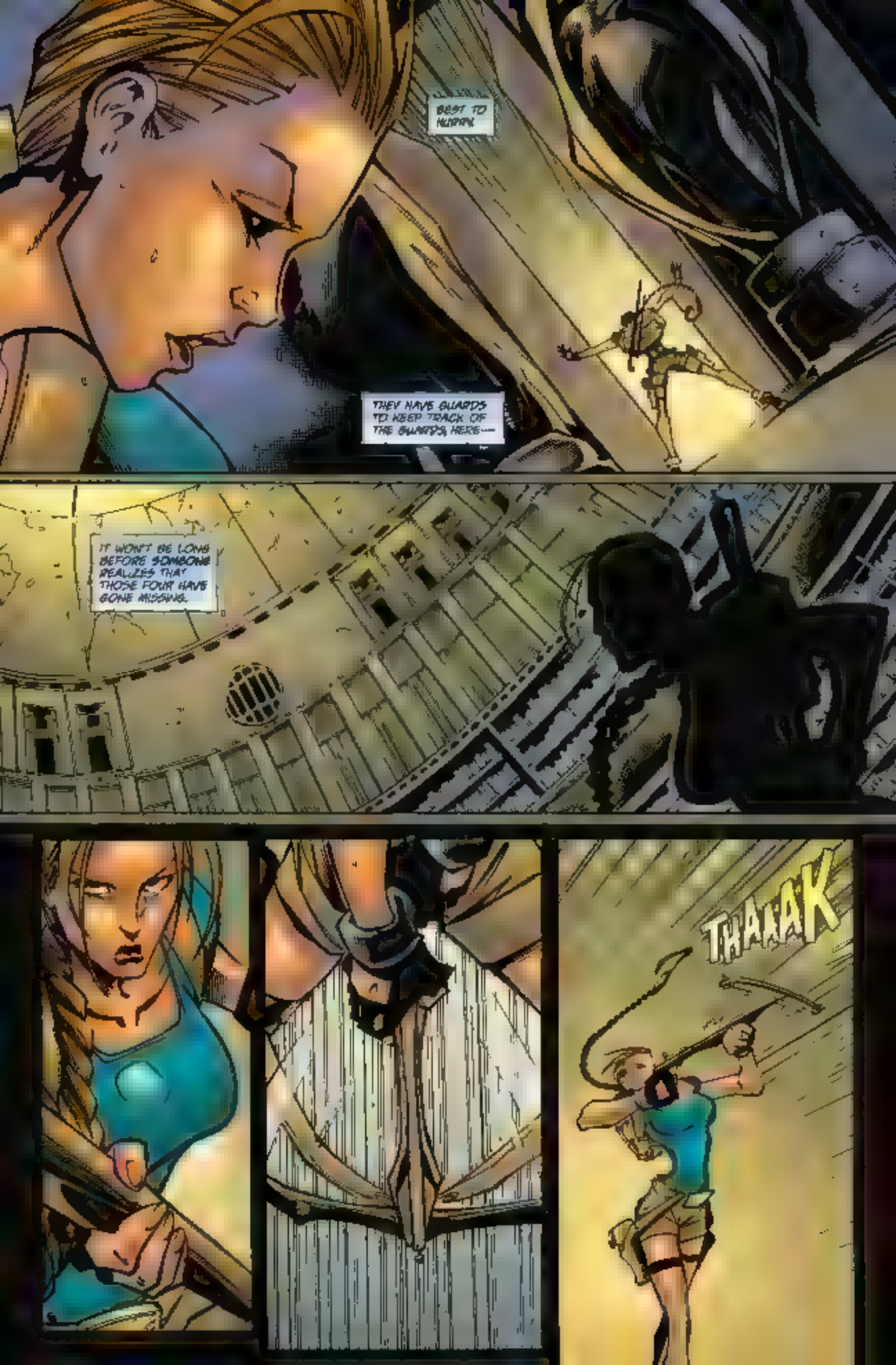
THE VATICAN.
JAMES GAVE ME TWO WEEKS TO FIND HIS FAIRYDALE WATER.
I WOULDN'T HAVE TIME FOR RESEARCH...
EVEN IF I HAD ACCESS TO MY LIBRARY.
SO I'LL HAVE TO PICK SOMEONE'S BRAIN.
THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND IT.
LARA--
YOU'RE A VERY, VERY, VERY NAUGHTY GIRL.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAN WHO'S THE LEAST TO KNOW WHAT I NEED TO KNOW—
KNOWS A LOT OF OTHER THINGS AS WELL...
THINKS THE POWERS THAT BE WOULD RATHER THE REST OF US DIDN'T KNOW.
IS THAT HE'S MAD
BUT THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT
THE REAL PROBLEM WITH MAD WILLIE—

AFTER I'VE DONE SINNING FOR THE DAY.

CATCH ME AT THE CONFESSIONAL ON MY WAY OUT--

YOU NEEDN'T BE SO #@!% ABOUT IT.
I WON'T BE COMMITTING ANY MORTAL SINS—
SUCH AS BLOWING YOUR HEADS OFF—
UNLESS YOU FORCE ME TO.
NOW, GET DOWN, PLEASE.
HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEADS...
DON'T GET THE WRONG IMPRESSION.
I'M REALLY QUITE A NICE GIRL, WHEN YOU GET TO KNOW ME


BEST TO HUNKER.
THEY HAVE GUARDS TO KEEP TRACK OF THE GUARDS, HERE—
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SOMEONE REALIZES THAT THOSE FOUR HAVE GONE MISSING.
THAAAK

CHUNK
LOVELY.
BUT THAT WAS THE BEST SHOT...
I'VE GOT TO GET THIS RIGHT, AND NOT JUST FOR TSHANA...
THERE ARE THE TABLOIDS TO CONSIDER.
IMAGINE THE HEADLINES—
THAAK
THAAK
"DISGRACED ADVENTURESS FOUND MASHED TO PULP IN SECRET VATICAN LIBRARY!"
"... PHOTOS ON PAGE 9."
CHUKK

HAVE YOU EVER WORN A TIE BEFORE?
THIS ONE'S A BIT THIN, BUT IT SUITS YOU...
DON'T LET GO...

WHOOOF.
THANK GOODNESS THAT'S DONE WITH.
NOW FOR THE FUN.
UH,HH?
IT'S LARA CROFT.
REMEMBER ME? UH,HH?
I REMEMBER YOU, LARA.
YOU TOLD ME STORIES, AND I TOLD YOU STORIES---
BEFORE I WAS A WOLF.
TO BE CONTINUED.

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
TONY DANIEL

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH AND BRIAN BUCCELLATO

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
DENNIS HEISLER, AND MARTIN BARNES

COVER PENCILS
TONY DANIEL

COVER INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COVER COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

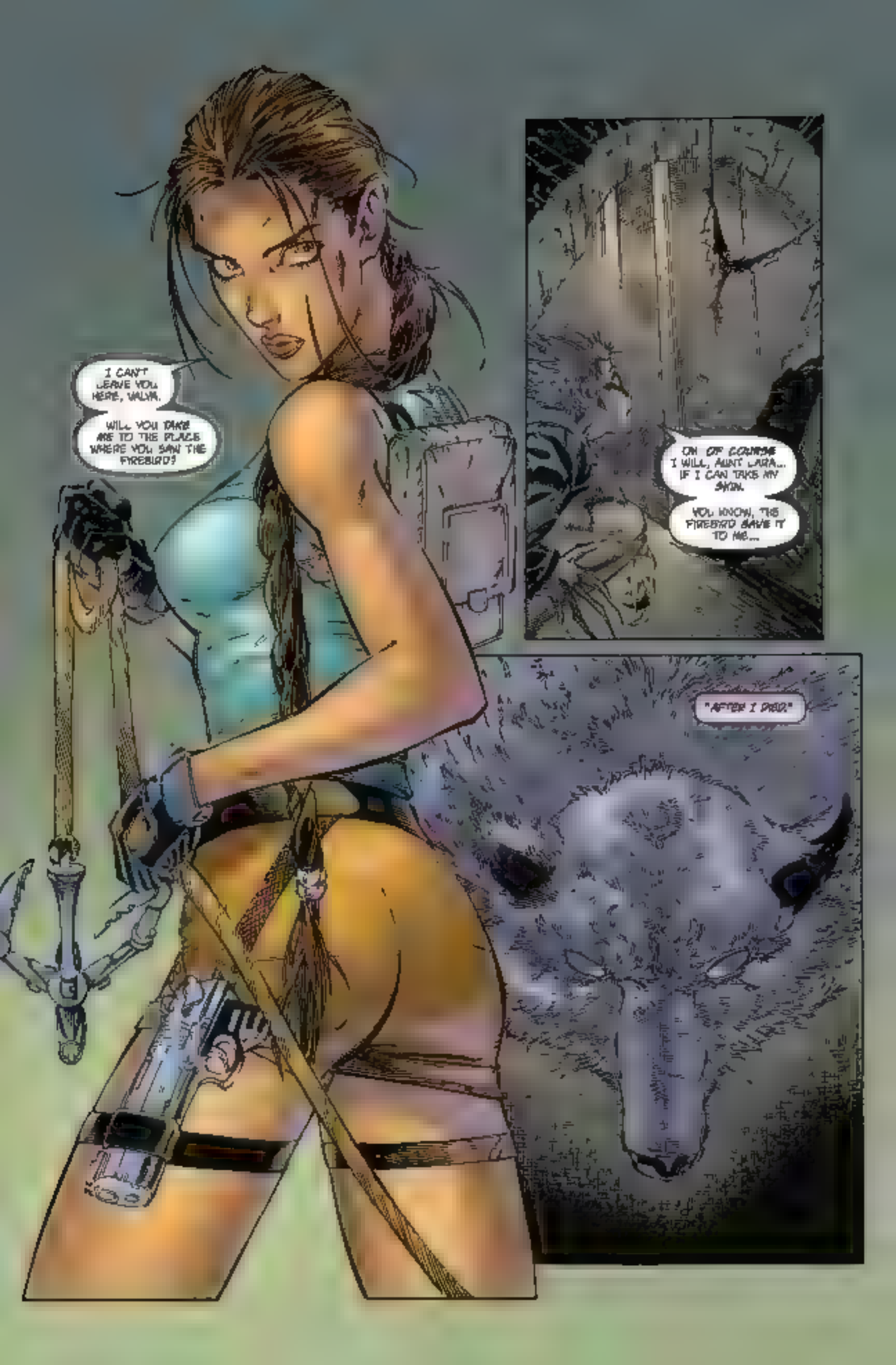
ROME.
WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE VATICAN.
THAT'S RIGHT, VALIA— I TOLD YOU STORIES.
AND YOU TOLD ME STORIES, TOO.
DID I, AUNT LARA?
I DON'T REMEMBER.
YOU DID. AND I NEED YOU TO TELL ME AGAIN—
VALIA—
WHAT'RE THOSE? ON YOUR LEGS?
THEY'RE SILVER. BUT THE SECUTOR CALLS THEM IRONS.
DON'T THESE PEOPLE KNOW THE INQUISITION'S OVER?
THEY'RE TO KEEP ME FROM CLIMBING UP TO GET MY SKIN.
SEE? THEY SAY IT'S UNHOLY.
NONE OF THEM WILL TOUCH IT BUT THE SECUTOR.
I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT YOU...
BUT YOU SEEMED SO... HAPPY HERE THE NIGHT I FOUND YOU.
THAT WAS WHEN THEY GAVE ME MEAT, AUNT LARA...
GHRRR...
THEY DON'T GIVE ME MEAT ANYMORE.

DON'T TRY TO FRIGHTEN ME, VALYA.
YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME.
I WAS BAD. I'M SORRY.
I WAS WORSE. AND I'M NOT.
THERE WE ARE. NOW...
TELL ME AGAIN ABOUT THE FIREBIRD AND THE WATER OF LIFE.
KTK
ALL RIGHT AUNT LARA—
KATHOOM!
DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL HIM TOO?

CEASE THY TRANSGRESSION
KNEEL BEFORE THE SECUTOR, THAT HE MAY SHOW THEE MERCY.
I'M NOT THAT MUCH OF AN OPTIMIST, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ZAK
ZAK
KOOM
KOOM
AND IF YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUT THOSE SHACKLES ON POOR VALIA—
I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOME MERCY OF MY OWN.

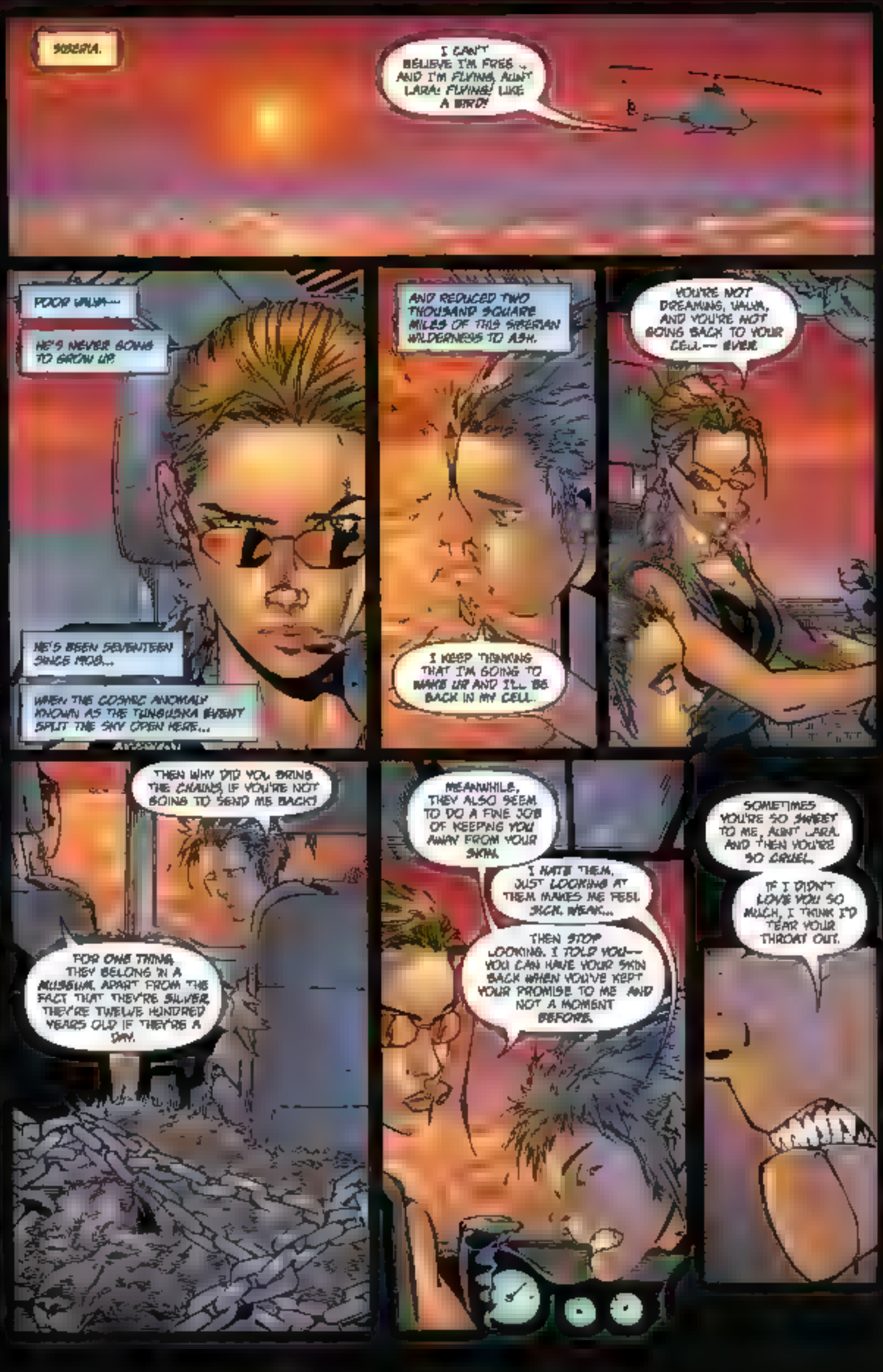
KANG
KANG
KANG
NEVER SHALL THE BEAST BE UNLEASHED SAVE AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF ROME
YOU'D USE THIS POOR, MAD CHILD AS AN ASSASSIN?
AMEN
KRAKOOM
THAT'S DISGUSTING!
SOUNDS A BIT IMPRACTICAL AS WELL, TO TELL THE TRUTH.
FACE ME, DESECRATOR!
KNEEL IN HOLY PENANCE BEFORE ME!
THE SECUTORES WERE AMONG THE MOST FORMIDABLE GLADIATORIAL CLASSES OF ANCIENT ROME...
YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH THIS KNEELING THING, AREN'T YOU?
EQUIPPED FOR AN ALMOST PERFECT BALANCE OF OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY.
WELL, SORRY—
BUT THEY DID HAVE ONE NOTORIOUS VULNERABILITY.

I LIKE TO BE ON TOP
THEY COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING—
KOOM
KOOM
THAT WASN'T RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM.
SLUSHH
KEEP THE BRAINS OFF THE BOOTS, PLEASE. THAT'S RIGHT...
THANK YOU.
CHMD


I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE, VALYA.
WILL YOU TAKE ME TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU SAW THE FIREBIRD?
OH OF COURSE I WILL, AUNT LARA... IF I CAN TAKE MY SKIN.
YOU KNOW, THE FIREBIRD GAVE IT TO ME...
"AFTER I DIED."

VANNEVAAL...
WHOSE CATACOMBS PLUNGE DEEPER THAN HER TOWERS CLIMB.
AHHH, THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH... YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW HEAVILY I'VE MISSED THEM, DANA...
MY DEAR APPRENTICE.
WHAT COULD A CANCER LIKE YOU KNOW ABOUT PLEASURE, VAMMASA?
I THINK THE WORD YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS PAIN.
IT'S PLAIN AS DAY THAT THIS IS YOUR FIRST GO-ROUND AS A HUMAN BEING, VANNE.
I'M PERPETUALLY ASTONISHED BY THE DEPTHS OF YOUR NAIVETÉ.
BEFORE THIS BODY OF MINE SHOULDER WOMAN FOUGHT FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF DYING IN MY EMBRACE...
WHILE I WAS EMBRACING THEM IN SOME INSTANCES.
PERHAPS YOUR LITTLE LAMB WILL FIND ME ATTRACTIVE, ONCE I'VE REINSTATED MY LEASE ON LIFE WITH THE WATERS OF LIFE AND DEATH SHE'S POSSESSING.

SHE'LL NEVER DO IT, YAMAMASA. LARA'S TOO SMART.
SHE KNOWS YOU WON'T KEEP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN.
AND...
AND?
LARA'S NOT GOING TO RISK HER LIFE TO FREE ME, OR BRING ME BACK TO LIFE.
HOW COULD SHE STILL WANT ME?
AFTER I'VE BEEN—
PART OF YOU.


SIBERIA.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M FREE... AND I'M FLYING, AUNT LARA! FLYING! LIKE A BIRD!
POOR VALYA—
HE'S NEVER GOING TO GROW UP.
HE'S BEEN SEVENTEEN SINCE MOB...
WHEN THE COSMIC ANOMALY KNOWN AS THE TUNGUSKA EVENT SPLIT THE SKY OPEN HERE...
AND REDUCED TWO THOUSAND SQUARE MILES OF THIS SIBERIAN WILDERNESS TO ASH.
I KEEP THINKING THAT I'M GOING TO WAKE UP AND I'LL BE BACK IN MY CELL.
YOU'RE NOT DREAMING, VALYA, AND YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO YOUR CELL— EVER.
THEN WHY DID YOU BRING THE CHAINS, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEND ME BACK?
FOR ONE THING, THEY BELONG IN A MUSEUM. APART FROM THE FACT THAT THEY'RE SILVER, THEY'RE TWELVE HUNDRED YEARS OLD IF THEY'RE A DAY.
MEANWHILE, THEY ALSO SEEM TO DO A FINE JOB OF KEEPING YOU AWAY FROM YOUR SKIN.
I HATE THEM. JUST LOOKING AT THEM MAKES ME FEEL SICK. WEAK...
THEN STOP LOOKING. I TOLD YOU— YOU CAN HAVE YOUR SKIN BACK WHEN YOU'VE KEPT YOUR PROMISE TO ME AND NOT A MOMENT BEFORE.
SOMETIMES YOU'RE SO SWEET TO ME, AUNT LARA. AND THEN YOU'RE SO CRUEL.
IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU SO MUCH, I THINK I'D TEAR YOUR THROAT OUT.

THAT WOULDN'T BE VERY SENSIBLE OF YOU, WOULD IT? NOT WHILE WE'RE FLYING.

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE FIREBIRD INSTEAD?

I NEED YOUR HELP LARA, AND WOULDN'T YOU RATHER BE MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR THAN RIP MY THROAT OUT?

YOU SEE...

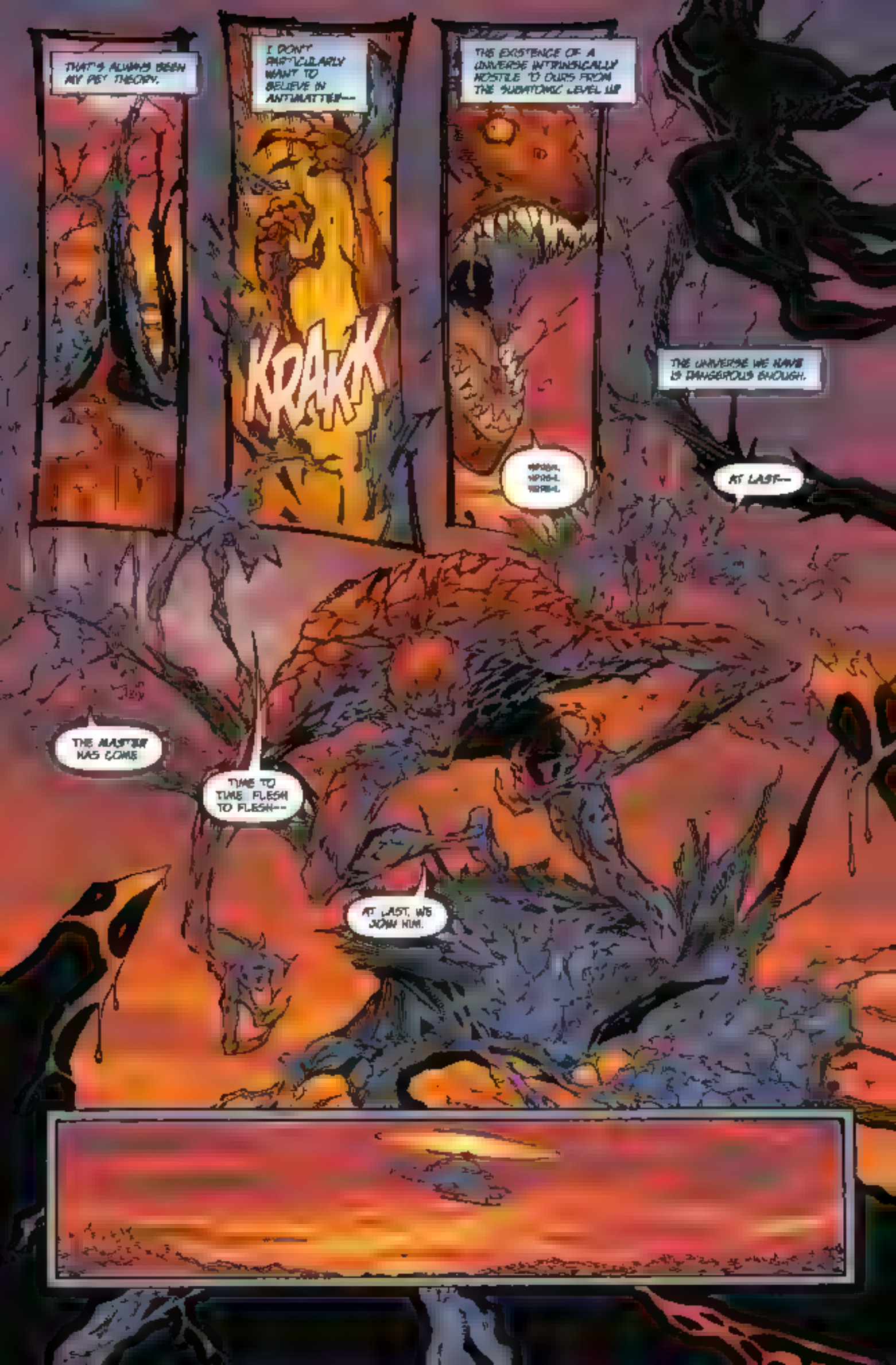
"MY LIFE IS A LITTLE LIKE A FAIRYTALE THESE DAYS. ONE OF THE DARK ONES...

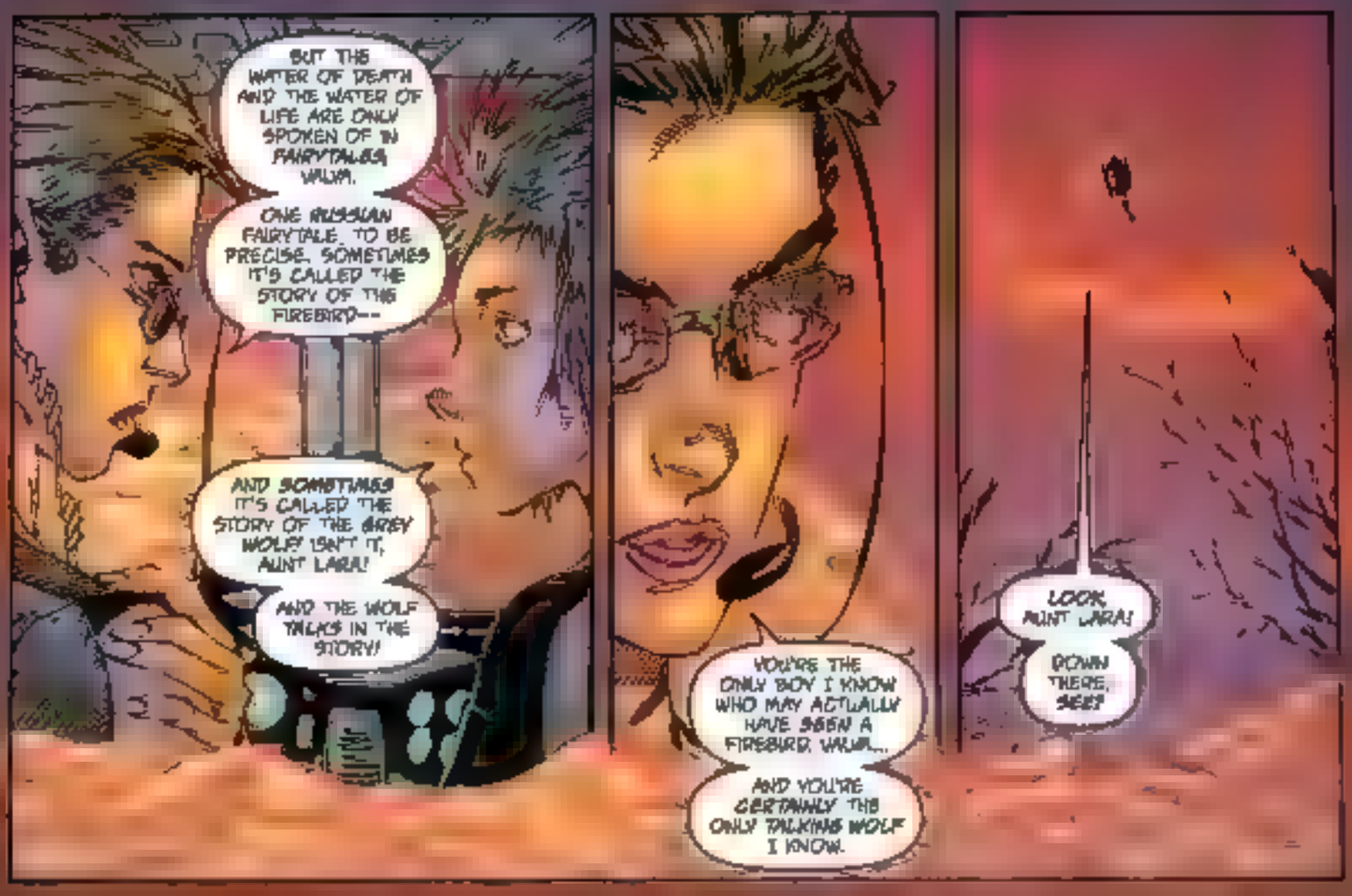
"A MONSTER NAMED VALMASA STOLE MY HOME— MY LITTLE CASTLE IF YOU WILL. CROFT MANOR."

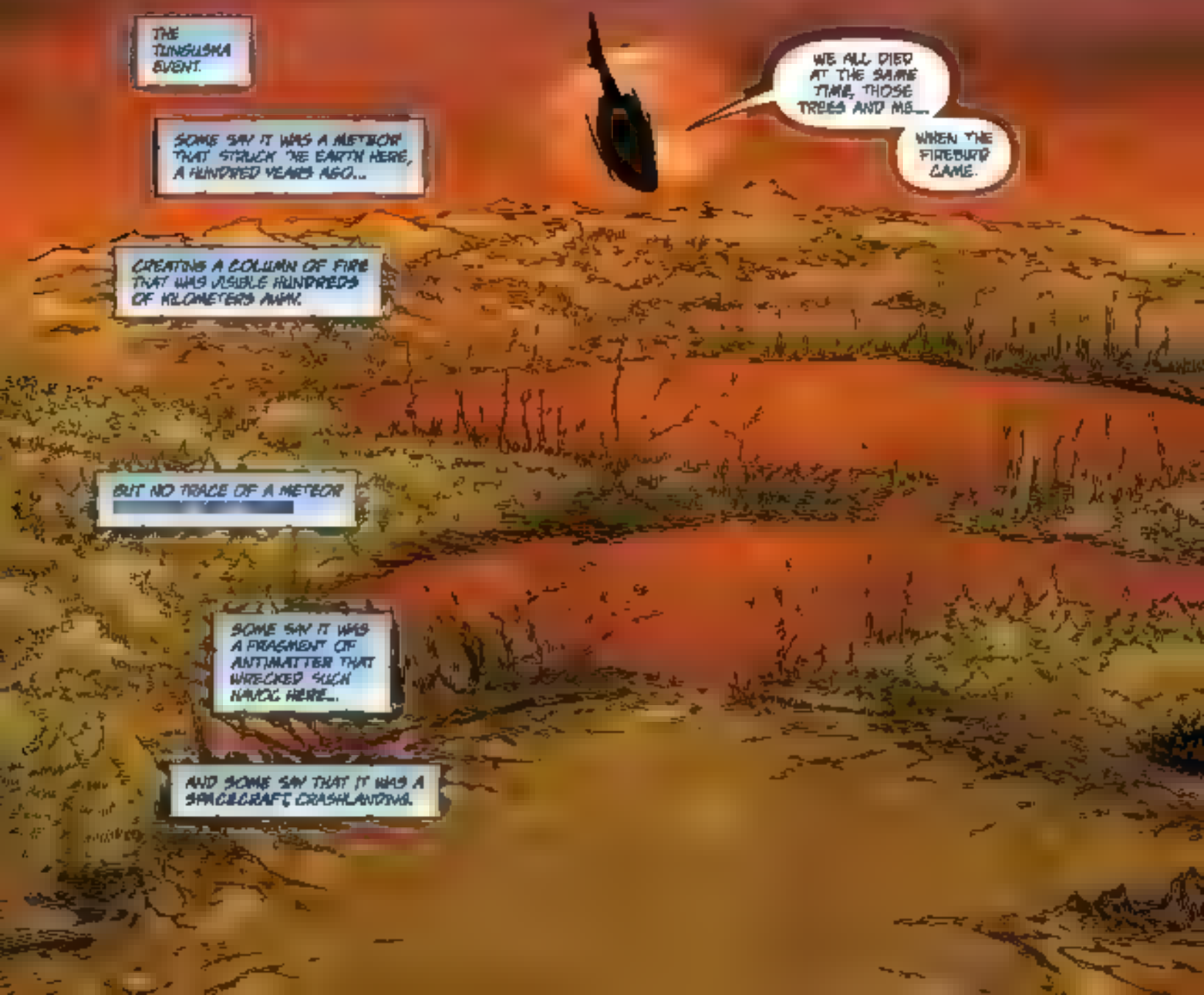
"THAT'S BAD."

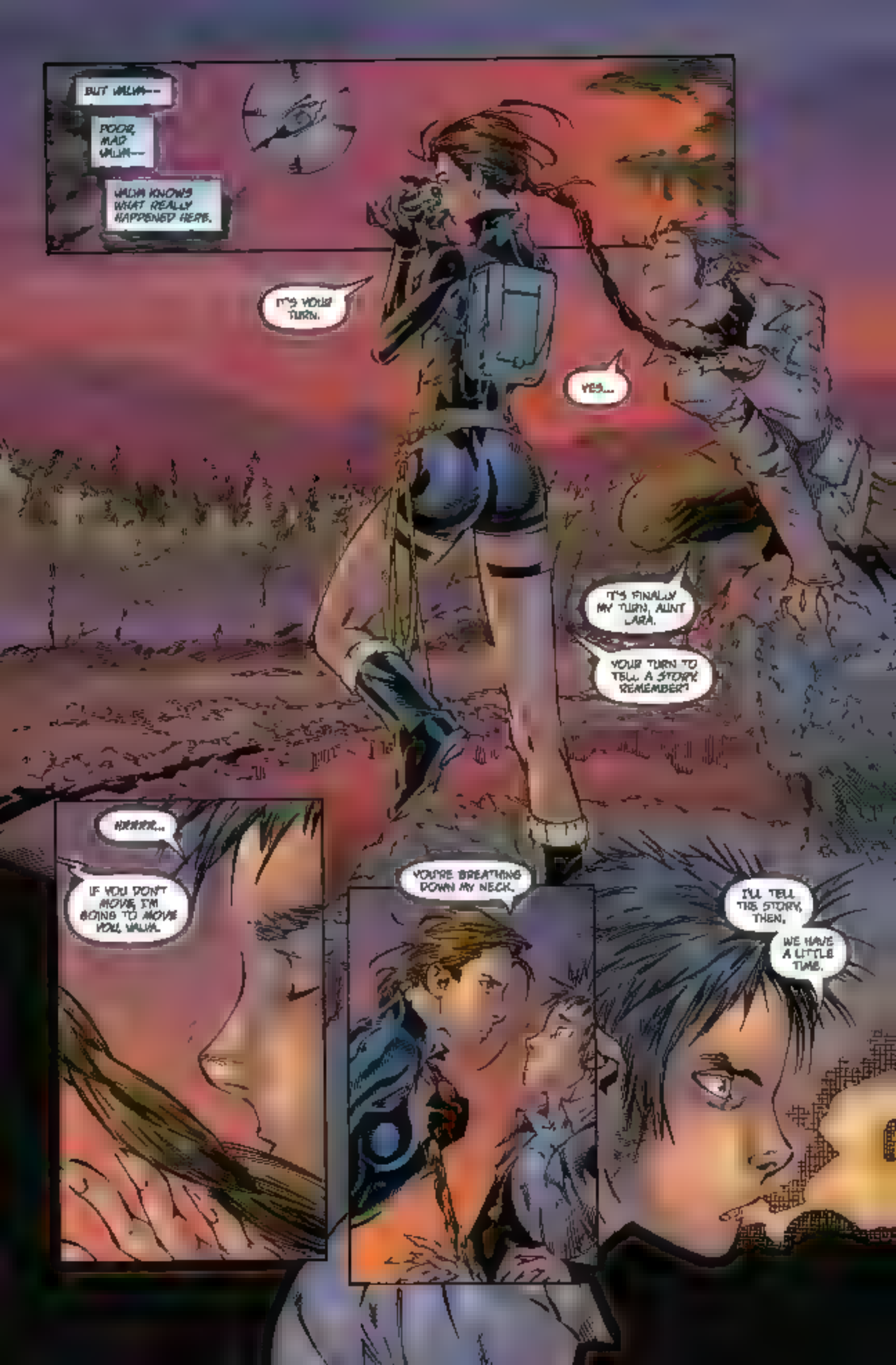
AND THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT. THE OGRE'S GOT MY HANDSOME PRINCE, TOO—

AND HE'S GOING TO KEEP MY HOME AND EAT TSANG UP IF I DON'T BRING HIM THE WATER OF DEATH AND THE WATER OF LIFE.


THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY PET THEORY.
I DON'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO BELIEVE IN ANTIMATTER--
KRAKK
THE EXISTENCE OF A UNIVERSE INTRINSICALLY HOSTILE TO OURS FROM THE SUBATOMIC LEVEL UP
THE UNIVERSE WE HAVE IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH.
AT LAST--
THE MASTER HAS COME
TIME TO TIME FLESH TO FLESH--
AT LAST, WE JOIN HIM.


BUT THE WATER OF DEATH AND THE WATER OF LIFE ARE ONLY SPOKEN OF IN FAIRYTALES, VALJA.
ONE RUSSIAN FAIRYTALE. TO BE PRECISE. SOMETIMES IT'S CALLED THE STORY OF THE FIREBIRD--
AND SOMETIMES IT'S CALLED THE STORY OF THE GREY WOLF, ISN'T IT, AUNT LARA!
AND THE WOLF TALKS IN THE STORY!
YOU'RE THE ONLY BOY I KNOW WHO MAY ACTUALLY HAVE SEEN A FIREBIRD, VALJA...
AND YOU'RE CERTAINLY THE ONLY TALKING WOLF I KNOW.
LOOK, AUNT LARA!
DOWN THERE, SEE?


THE TUNGUSKA EVENT.
SOME SAY IT WAS A METEOR THAT STRUCK THE EARTH HERE, A HUNDRED YEARS AGO...
CREATING A COLUMN OF FIRE THAT WAS VISIBLE HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS AWAY.
BUT NO TRACE OF A METEOR
SOME SAY IT WAS A FRAGMENT OF ANTIMATTER THAT WRECKED SUCH HAVOC HERE...
AND SOME SAY THAT IT WAS A SPACECRAFT CRASHLANDING.
WE ALL DIED AT THE SAME TIME, THOSE TREES AND ME...
WHEN THE FIREBIRD CAME.


BUT VALVA--
POOR, MAD VALVA--
VALVA KNOWS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED HERE.
IT'S YOUR TURN.
YES...
IT'S FINALLY MY TURN, AUNT LARA.
YOUR TURN TO TELL A STORY, REMEMBER?
HRRRR...
IF YOU DON'T MOVE, I'M GOING TO MOVE YOU, VALVA.
YOU'RE BREATHING DOWN MY NECK.
I'LL TELL THE STORY, THEN.
WE HAVE A LITTLE TIME.

"I WAS HUNTING...

"ALONE AS I ALWAYS HUNTED.

"TRACKING A WOLF THAT HAD BEEN SLAUGHTERING HORSES IN OUR VILLAGE.

"I CAME UPON HIM HERE, AT THE RIVER.

"I THOUGHT TO CLIMB THE HILL FOR A CLEAR SHOT AT HIM, THE GREY DEVIL...

"BUT HE WAS THE TRUE HUNTER OF THE TWO OF US.

"WHEN I REACHED THE CREST HE WAS THERE, WAITING."

"HE HAD ONLY TO SPRING.

"HE TORE AT MY THROAT WITH HIS SHARP TEETH—

"AND AS WE FELL TOGETHER FROM THE CLIFF—

"WE SAW THE FIREBIRD, THAT GREY DEVIL AND I.

PERHAPS ONE DAY YOU'LL KNOW HOW HELPLESS I FELT THEN, AUNT LARA...

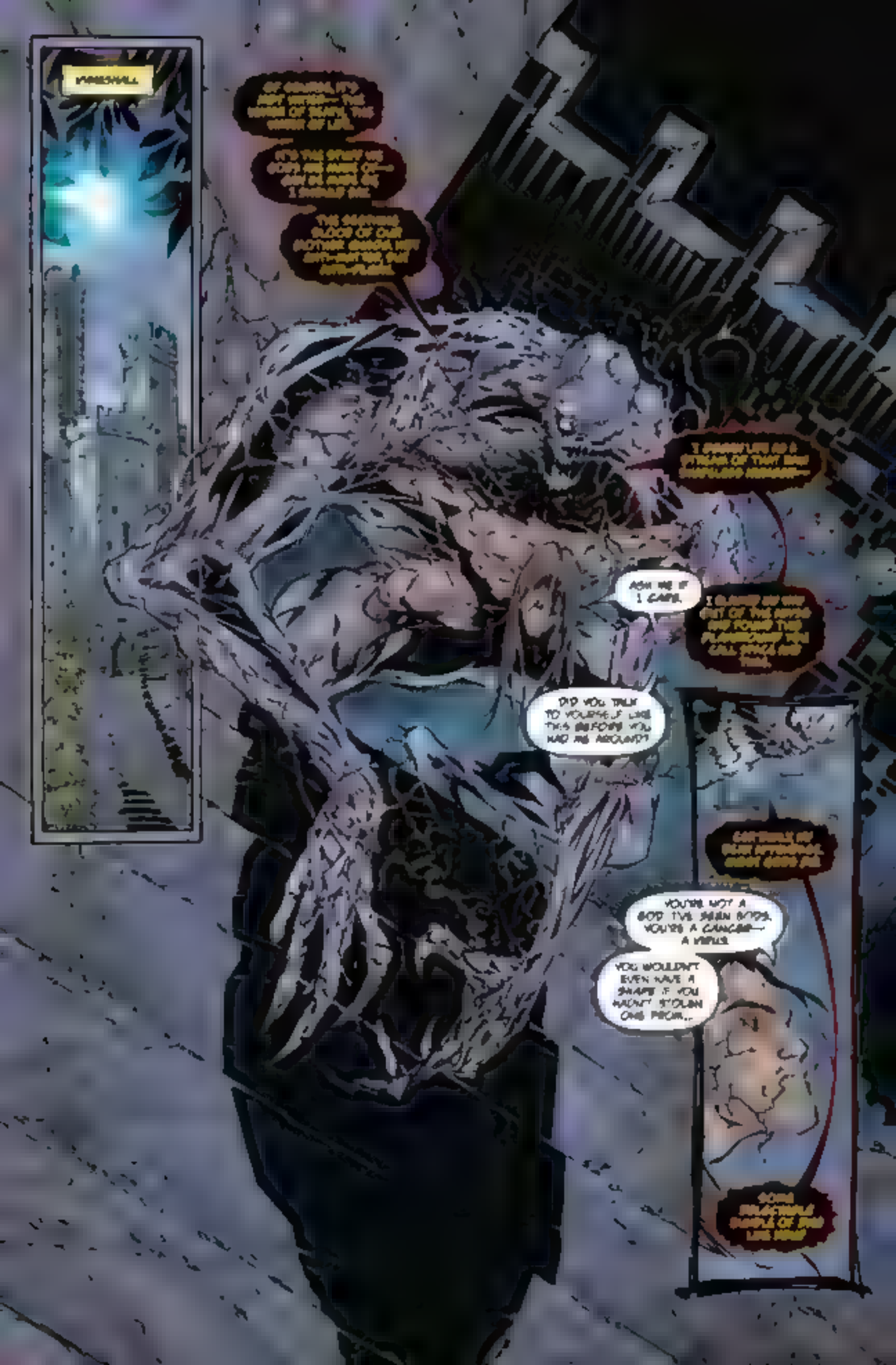
"I STRUCK AT HIS HEAD WITH THE RIFLE I COULD NOT AIM OR FIRE.

"HE HAD NO NEED TO AIM AND FIRE TO KILL, AS I HAD—

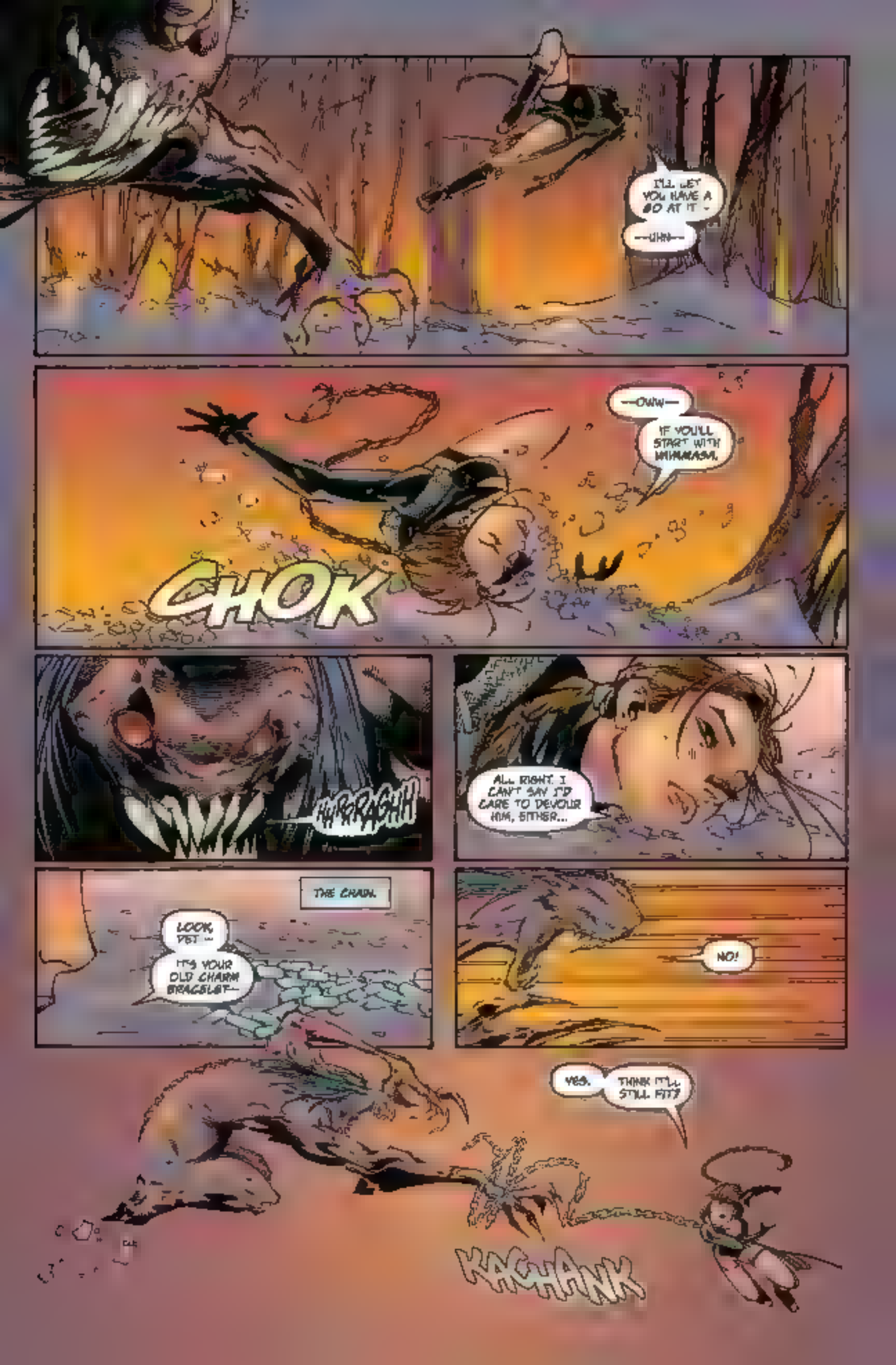
"AND WE DIED."

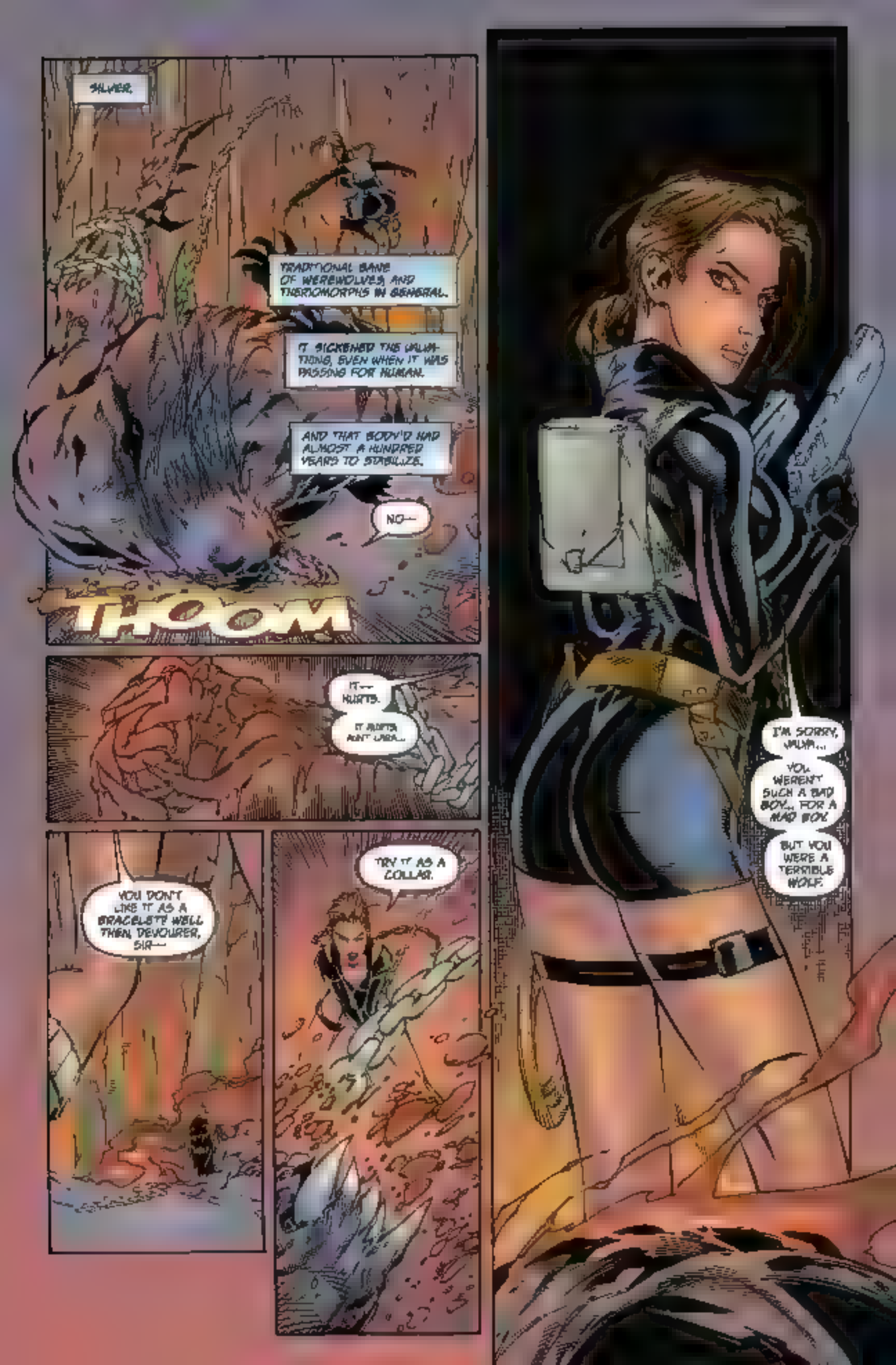
UHUH... YOU SAY THAT BUT YOU CAN'T MEAN IT.
YOU'RE ALIVE. YOU'RE HERE. YOU CAN'T TRULY HAVE DIED.
I KNOW WHAT I KNOW.
"I REMEMBER DYING, AUNT LARA.
"IT HURT...
"BUT NOT AS MUCH AS IT HURT TO COME ALIVE AGAIN.
TRULY—
YOU SHOULDN'T CALL ME UHUH ANYMORE.
IT'S ALSO TRUE WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU—
MANY A HUNTER DIES BEFORE HE— OR SHE— HAS A CHANCE TO AIM AND FIRE.

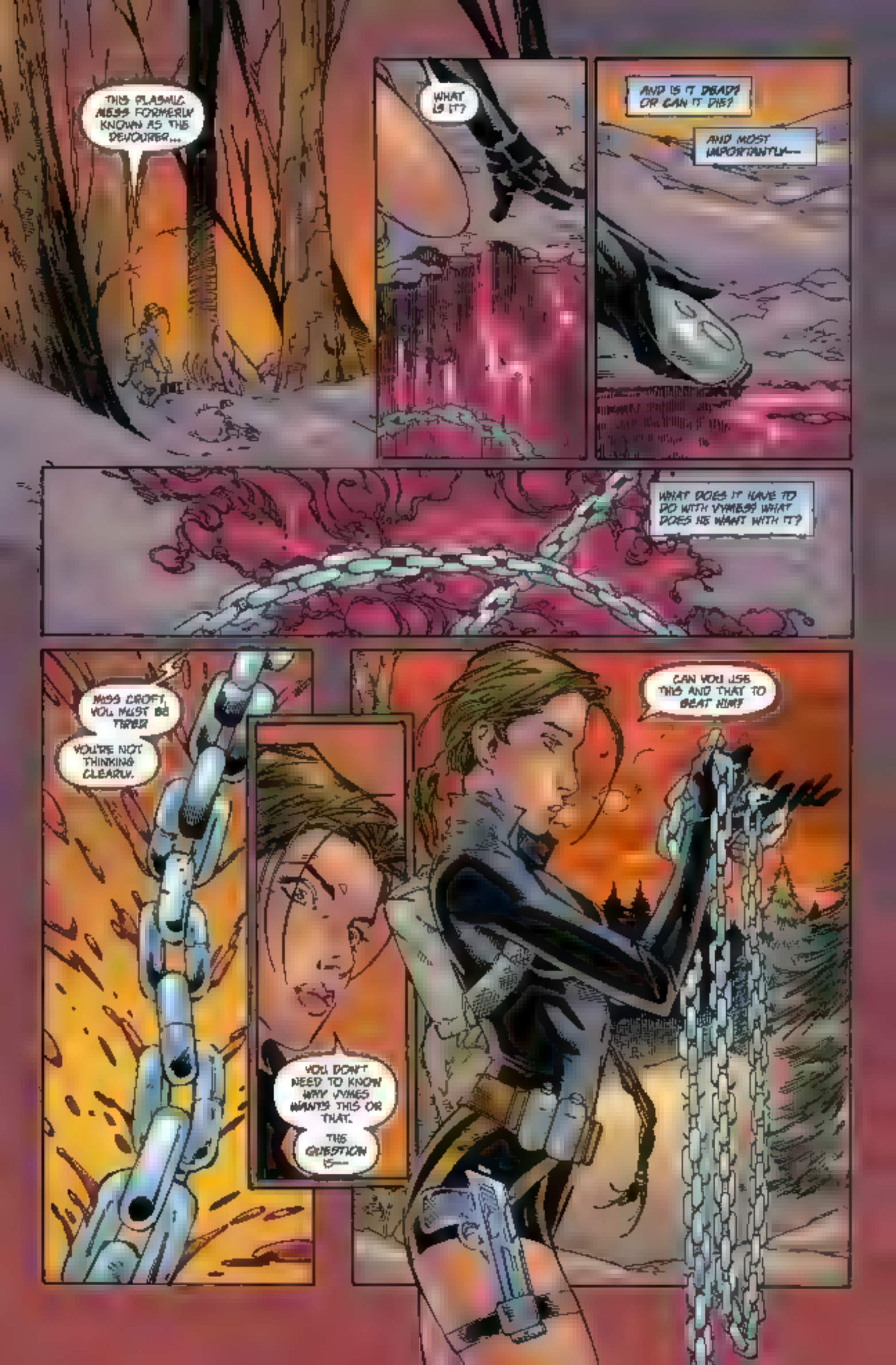
AS FOR WHAT YOU WANTED AUNT LARA--- LOOK!
IT'S ALL AROUND US.
YOU WANTED MY WATER OF DEATH? MY WATER OF LIFE?
THEN COME AND GET IT AUNT LARA...
IF YOU CAN.

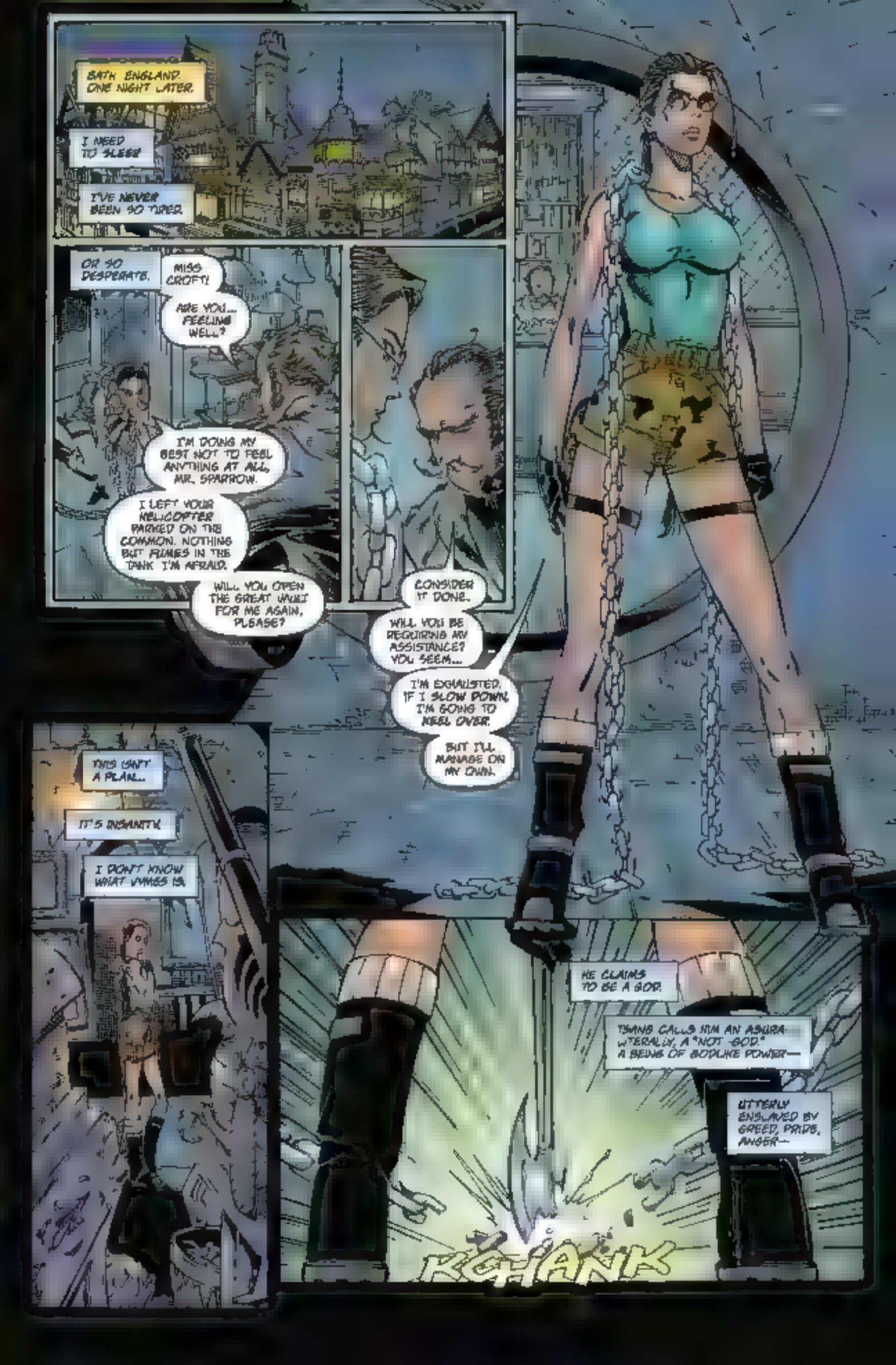

ASK ME IF I CARE.
DID YOU TALK TO YOURSELF LIKE THIS BEFORE YOU HAD ME AROUND?
YOU'RE NOT A GOD. I'VE SEEN GODS. YOU'RE A CANCER— A VIRUS.
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE A SHAPE IF YOU HADN'T STOLEN ONE FROM...

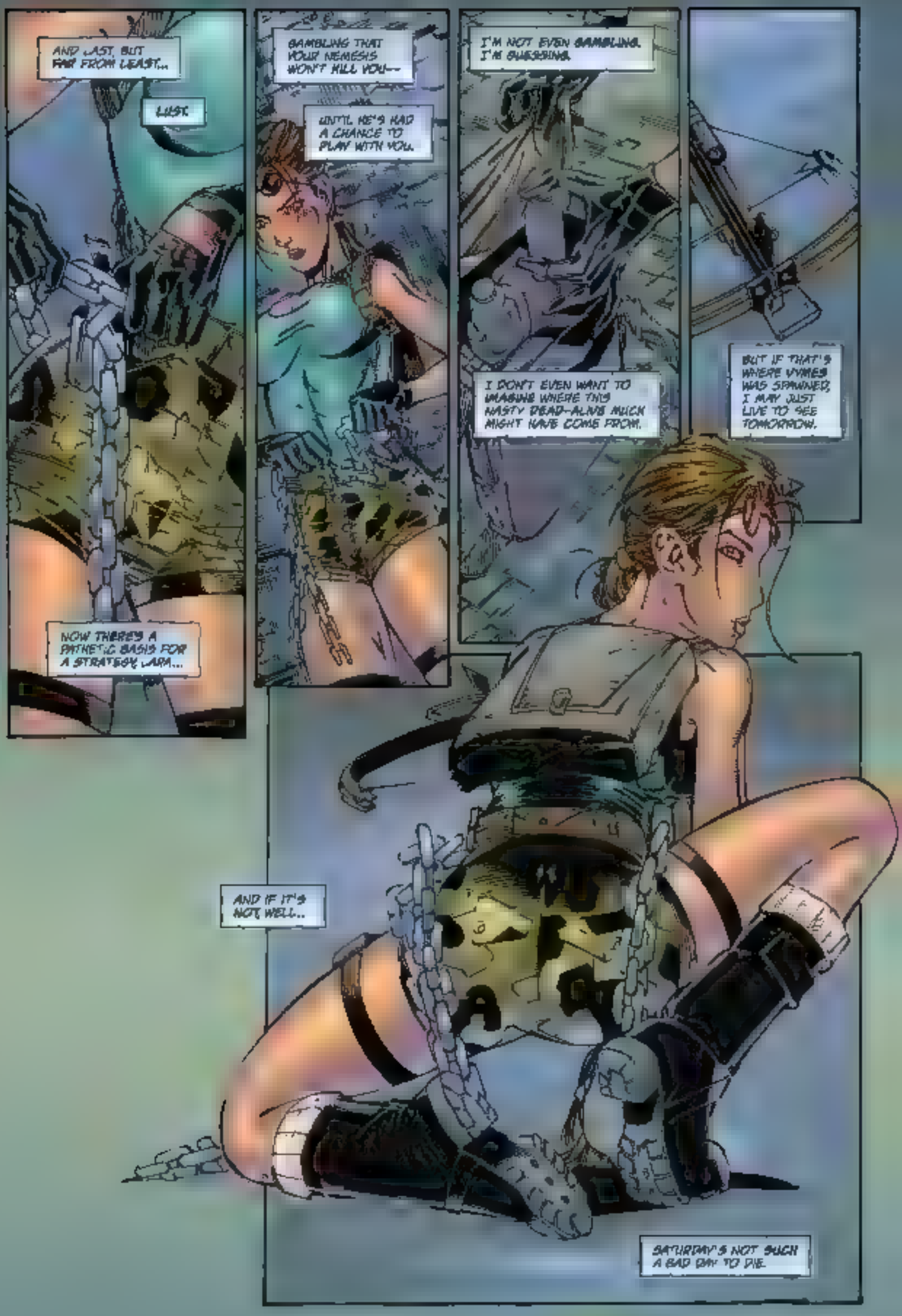
THE WARM-THING WAS TELLING ME THE TRUTH ALL ALONG.
THE REAL WARM IS DEAD.
AND I MAY JOIN HIM.
ICK.
I WOKE WITH THEIR FEAR IN ME— THE BOY AND WOLF WHOSE JUMBLED BONES I HAD STOLEN MEMORY AND SHAPE FROM. AND I RAN.
BUT SOON MY FLESH-KIN WILL FIND ME HERE. AND IN THE UNION OF OUR FLESH, I WILL BECOME WHAT I WAS MEANT TO BE.
THE DEVOURER OF A WORLD!
"I RAN BEFORE THE FUSION WAS COMPLETE, AUNT LARA.
"THE GOD-CHANGE."


I'LL LET YOU HAVE A GO AT IT -
---UHH---
---OWW---
IF YOU'LL START WITH MMMMASH.
CHOK
HURRAGHH
ALL RIGHT. I CAN'T SAY I'D CARE TO DEVOUR HIM, EITHER...
THE CHAIN.
LOOK, VET --
IT'S YOUR OLD CHARM BRACELET--
NO!
YES.
THINK IT'LL STILL FIT?
KACHANK


SILVER.
TRADITIONAL BANE OF WEREWOLVES AND THERIOMORPHS IN GENERAL.
IT SICKENED THE VALHATHONG, EVEN WHEN IT WAS PASSING FOR HUMAN.
AND THAT BODY'D HAD ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS TO STABILIZE.
NO—
THOOM
IT— HURTS.
IT HURTS AIN'T LIKE...
YOU DON'T LIKE IT AS A BRACELET? WELL THEN, DEVOURER, SIR—
TRY IT AS A COLLAR.
I'M SORRY, VALHA...
YOU WEREN'T SUCH A BAD BOY... FOR A MAD DOG.
BUT YOU WERE A TERRIBLE WOLF.


THIS PLASMIC MESS FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE DEVOURER...
WHAT IS IT?
AND IS IT DEAD? OR CAN IT DIE?
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY—
WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH VYMES? WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH IT?
MISS CROFT, YOU MUST BE TIRED
YOU'RE NOT THINKING CLEARLY.
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHY VYMES WANTS THIS OR THAT.
THIS QUESTION IS—
CAN YOU USE THIS AND THAT TO BEAT HIM?


BATH, ENGLAND. ONE NIGHT LATER.
I NEED TO SLEEP.
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO TIRED.
OR SO DESPERATE.
MISS CROFT!
ARE YOU... FEELING WELL?
I'M DOING MY BEST NOT TO FEEL ANYTHING AT ALL, MR. SPARROW.
I LEFT YOUR HELICOPTER PARKED ON THE COMMON. NOTHING BUT FUMES IN THE TANK, I'M AFRAID.
WILL YOU OPEN THE GREAT VAULT FOR ME AGAIN, PLEASE?
CONSIDER IT DONE.
WILL YOU BE REQUIRING MY ASSISTANCE? YOU SEEM...
I'M EXHAUSTED. IF I SLOW DOWN, I'M GOING TO KEEL OVER.
BUT I'LL MANAGE ON MY OWN.
THIS ISN'T A PLAN...
IT'S INSANITY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT LYNNES IS.
HE CLAIMS TO BE A GOD.
TSANG CALLS HIM AN ASURA: LITERALLY, A "NOT-GOD." A BEING OF GODLIKE POWER—
UTTERLY ENSLAVED BY GREED, PRIDE, ANGER—
KISHANK

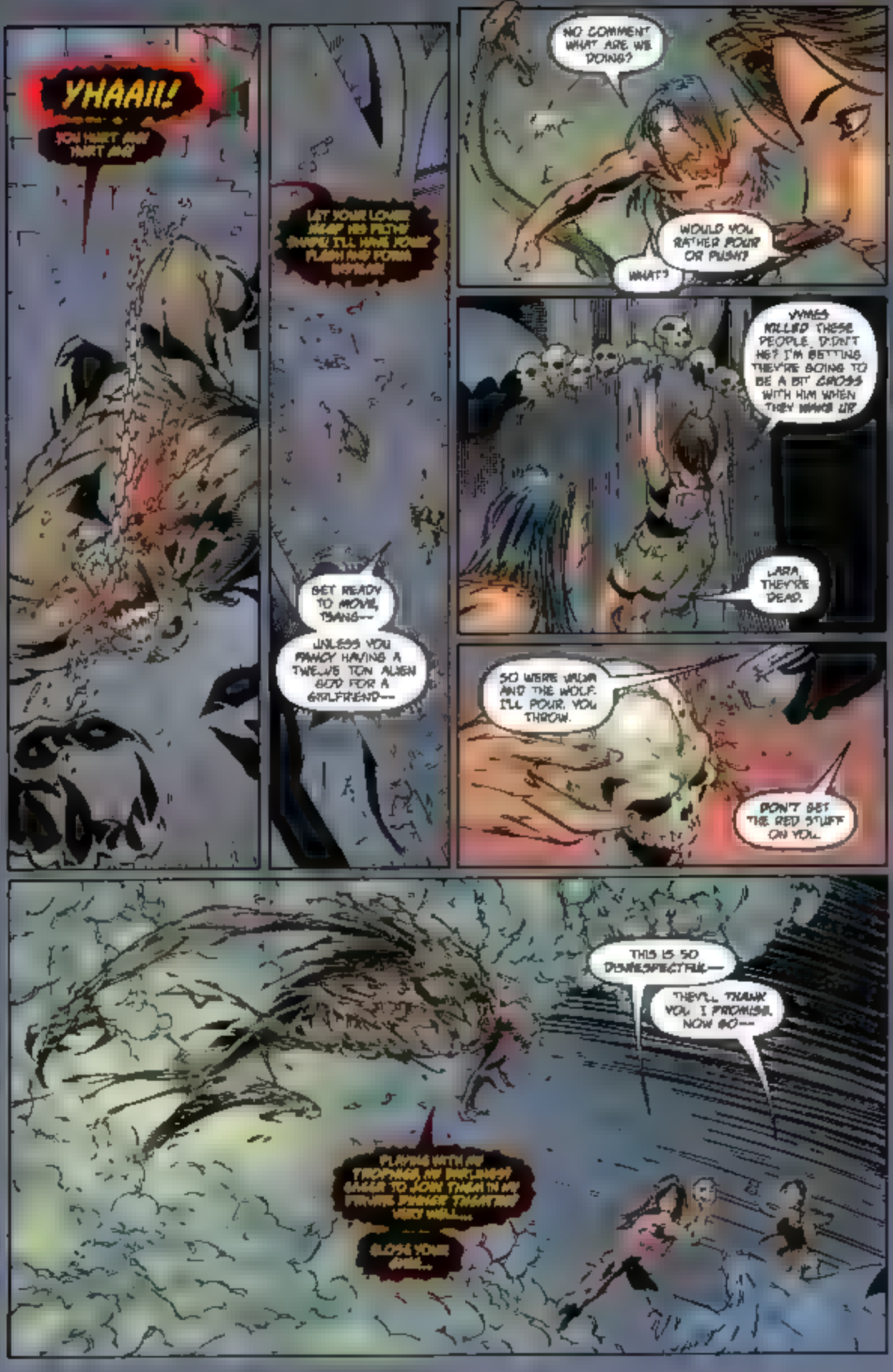

AND LAST, BUT FAR FROM LEAST...
LUST.
NOW THERE'S A PATHETIC BASIS FOR A STRATEGY, LARA...
GAMBLING THAT YOUR NEMESIS WON'T KILL YOU--
UNTIL HE'S HAD A CHANCE TO PLAY WITH YOU.
I'M NOT EVEN GAMBLING. I'M GUESSING.
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO IMAGINE WHERE THIS NASTY DEAD-ALIVE MUCK MIGHT HAVE COME FROM.
BUT IF THAT'S WHERE VYKEB WAS SPAWNED, I MAY JUST LIVE TO SEE TOMORROW.
AND IF IT'S NOT, WELL...
SATURDAY'S NOT SUCH A BAD DAY TO DIE.

VYMESHALL.
AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN.
THERE MUST BE AN EASIER WAY TO DO THIS.
BUT I'M TOO DELIRIOUS TO THINK OF IT.
KAM
KAM
KAM
KAM
KAM
KAM
KAM
KAM
LAST TIME I PAID VYMESHALL A VISIT, I HAPPENED TO NOTICE...
THE GATE'S HEAVY--
BUT ITS HINGES ARE EXPOSED--
JUST THE WAY I LIKE THEM.
FALL BACK!
SHE'S GOING UP IN FLAMES--
SORRY-- I WON'T BE GOING UP IN FLAMES TODAY, GENTLEMEN...
JUST GOING UP.

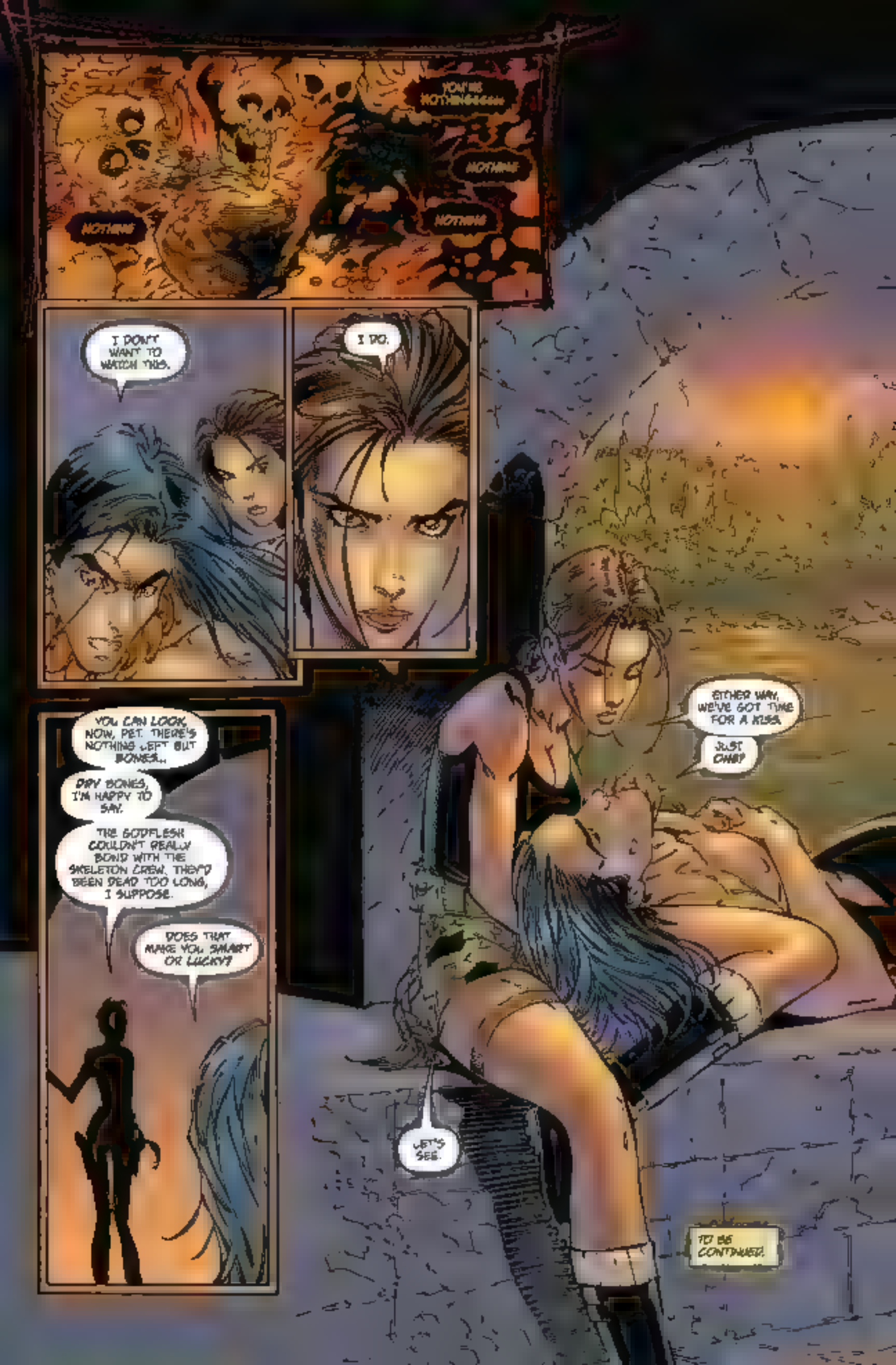
THIS IS ALL THE ALTITUDE I'M GETTING.
LET'S SEE IF I CAN GET SOMETHING WITH IT—
BESIDES THIS LOVELY ADRENALINE RUSH.
THWAK
COME ON— HIT SOMETHING—
IF I FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT, VYMES WON'T HAVE TO BUMP ME—
CHUNK
A FINE JOB, MISS CROFT.
NOW YOU'VE A LIFE EXPECTANCY OF MINUTES, INSTEAD OF SECONDS.
I'LL BE A BLOODY HOLE IN THE GROUND.
KAHOOM
VYMES!
I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU.

I'VE BROUGHT YOU YOUR WATER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
BUT YOU WON'T TASTE A DROP OF IT UNLESS I SEE TSANG! NOW!
THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT, MISS CROFT... I'M HERE.
OR SHOULD I SAY, WE'RE HERE?
IT'S DELIGHTFUL TO BE SO CLOSE TO YOU AT LAST, DEAR.
NOW GIVE ME THE WATER LARA— THE SWEET NECTAR OF CHAOS THAT GAVE ME BIRTH...
AND I'LL SWAP A FEW OF THESE UNSIGHTLY TONS OF FLESH, AND GIVE YOU BACK YOUR OAFISH PARAMOUR...
AND WE'LL ALL BE FRIENDS, EH? CLOSE FRIENDS...
I WANT TO SEE TSANG FIRST.
AND IF HE'S NOT STILL TSANG, YOU DON'T GET A DROP OF THIS. I'LL DRINK IT MYSELF.

VERY WELL— BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE ALL OF HIM. I'M NOT QUITE THROUGH WITH HIM, YET.
WE'VE GROWN QUITE CLOSE, IN THE TIME WE'VE SHARED—
SHUT UP.
—KAK—
S'ABOUT TIME SOMEONE TOLD THAT SLIMY BAG OF EGO TO SHUT UP—
THAT'S MY BOY.
TSANG—
FSHHHH
MAGNIFICENT YOU SWEET!
BY RELEASING MY CHAOS—FLESH FROM THE PATTERNING OF DECAYING DNA— AAAH! YOU'VE FREED ME, DEAR.
TO STEAL A NEW SHAPE.
LARA, HE SOUNDS HAPPY—
YOUR LOVERS, FOR INSTANCE.
KRASH
GET OUT OF HIM! NOW! FIGHT!
AND DON'T LET A DROP OF THIS STUFF TOUCH YOU—
FSSSSSH
THAT'S ABOUT HALF RIGHT


YHAAII!
GET READY TO MOVE, TSANG--
UNLESS YOU FANCY HAVING A TWELVE TON ALIEN GOD FOR A GIRLFRIEND--
NO COMMENT WHAT ARE WE DOING?
WOULD YOU RATHER POUR OR PUSH?
WHAT?
VYMES KILLED THESE PEOPLE. DIDN'T HE? I'M BETTING THEY'RE GOING TO BE A BIT CROSS WITH HIM WHEN THEY WAKE UP.
LARA, THEY'RE DEAD.
SO WERE VALIA AND THE WOLF. I'LL POUR. YOU THROW.
DON'T GET THE RED STUFF ON YOU.
THIS IS SO DISRESPECTFUL--
THEY'LL THANK YOU. I PROMISE. NOW GO--

SPLASH
lord vymes, it's such a pleasure to see you again
with or without eyes.
when you borrowed our flesh
did you ever think we might like to take it back?


YOU'RE NOTHINGGGGG...
NOTHING
NOTHING
NOTHING
I DON'T WANT TO WATCH THIS.
I DO.
YOU CAN LOOK NOW, PET. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT BONES...
DRY BONES, I'M HAPPY TO SAY.
THE GODFLESH COULDN'T REALLY BOND WITH THE SKELETON CREW. THEY'D BEEN DEAD TOO LONG, I SUPPOSE.
DOES THAT MAKE YOU SMART OR LUCKY?
EITHER WAY, WE'VE GOT TIME FOR A KISS.
JUST ONE?
LET'S SEE.
TO BE CONTINUED.

SCRIPT
JOHN NEY RIEBER

PENCILS
POP MHAN

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
JONATHAN D. SMITH

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
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COVER PENCILS
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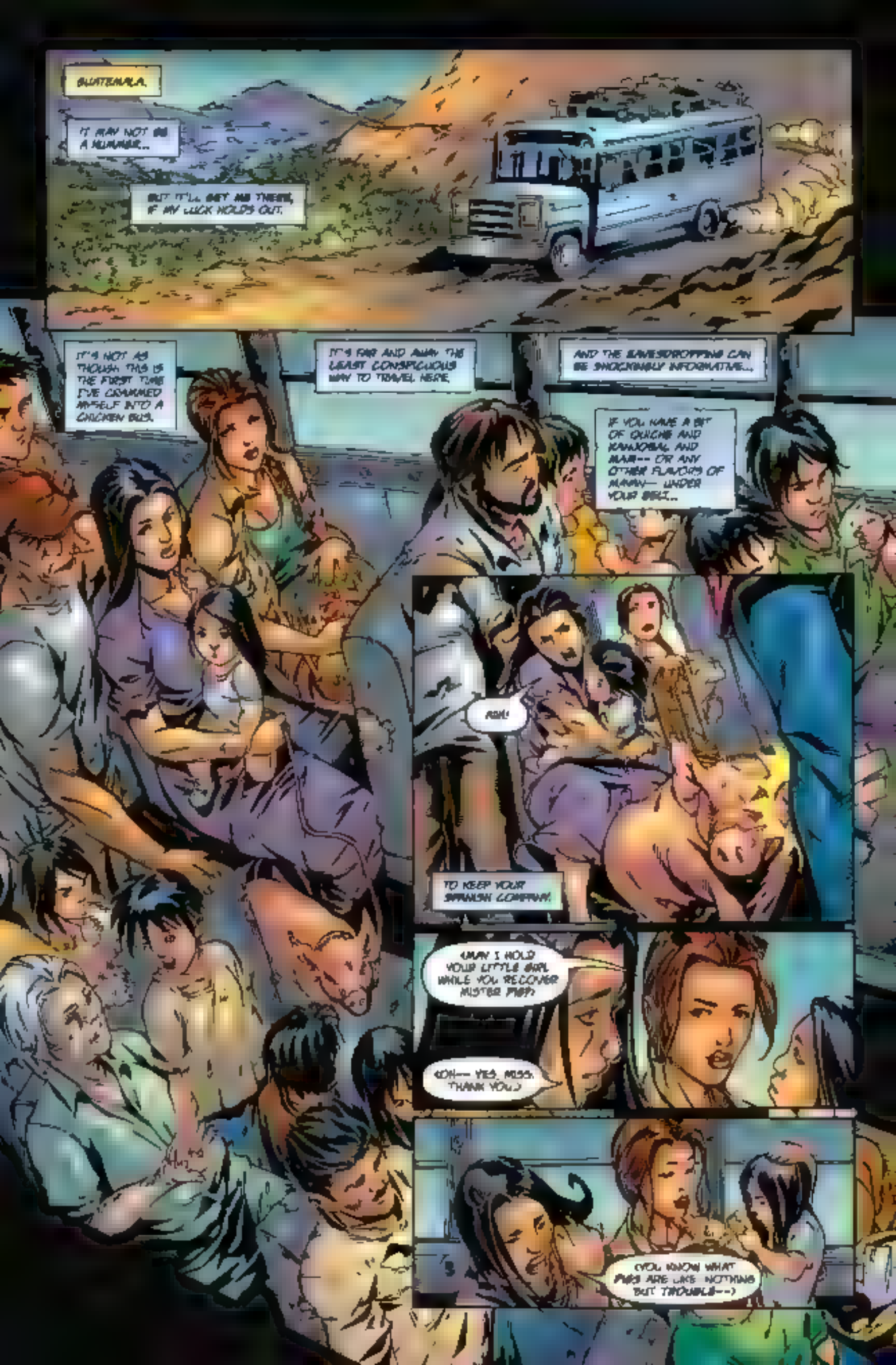
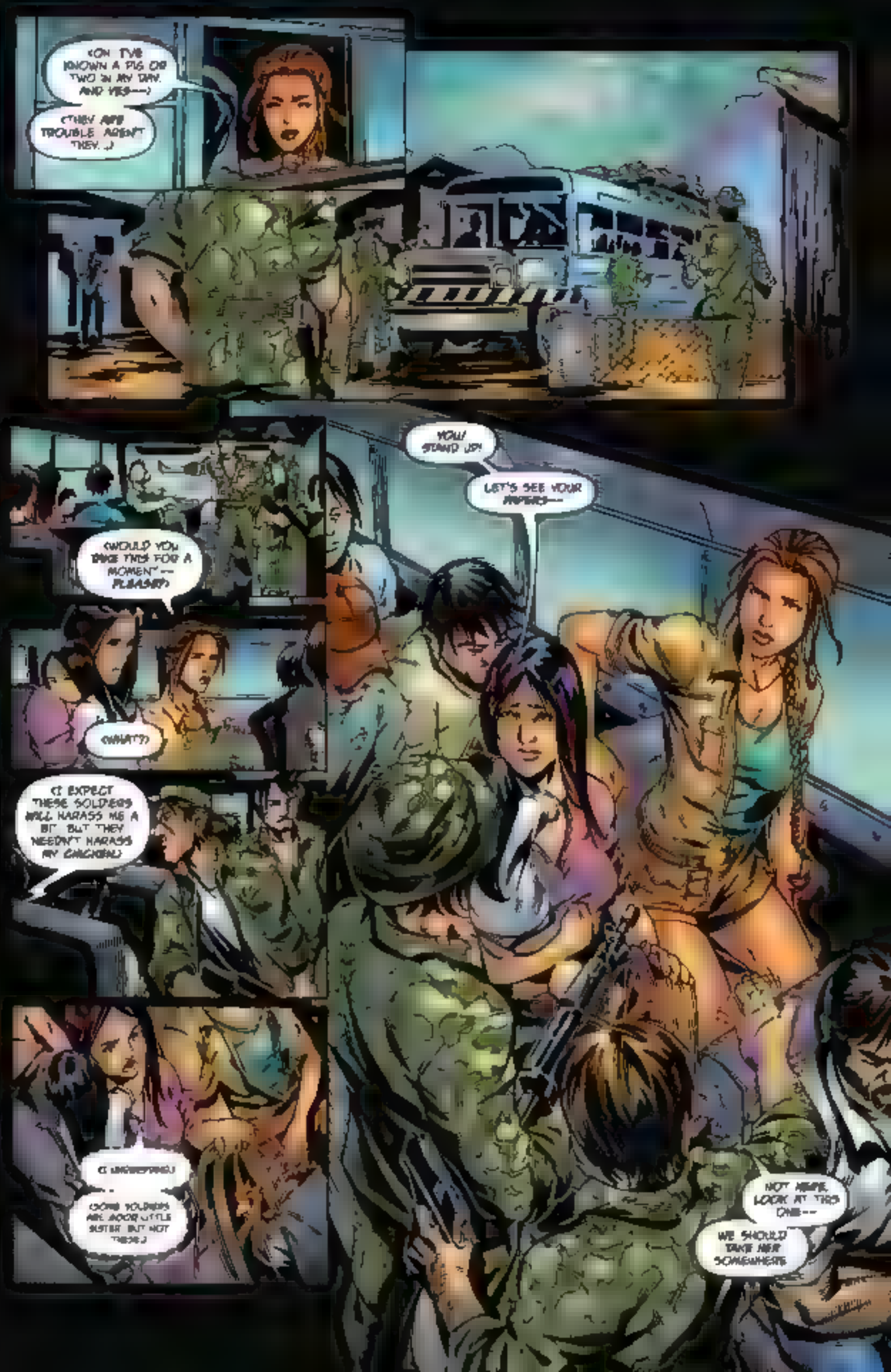
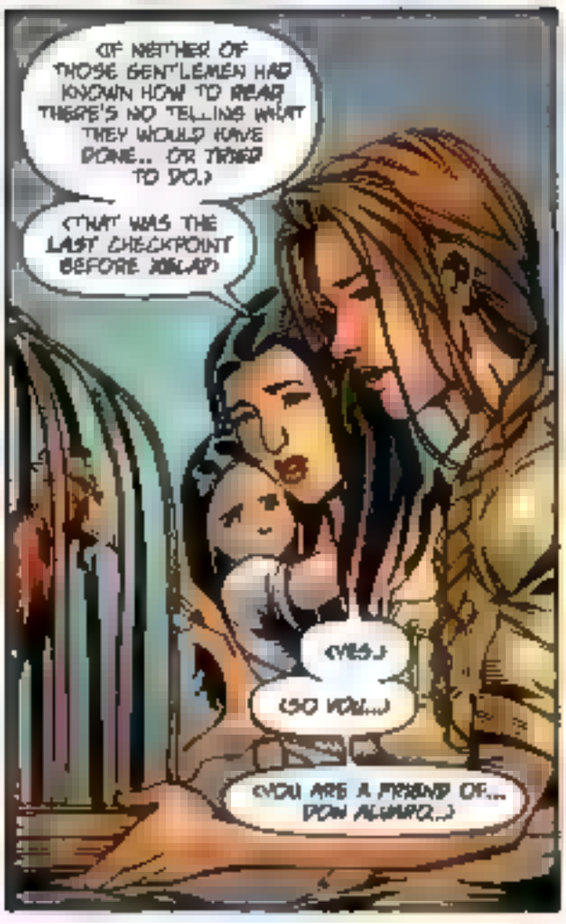

GUATEMALA.
IT MAY NOT BE A HUMMER...
BUT IT'LL GET ME THERE, IF MY LUCK HOLDS OUT.
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE CRAMMED MYSELF INTO A CHICKEN BUS.
IT'S FAR AND AWAY THE LEAST CONSPICUOUS WAY TO TRAVEL HERE.
AND THE EAVESDROPPING CAN BE SHOCKINGLY INFORMATIVE...
IF YOU HAVE A BIT OF QUICHE AND KAHLÚA AND MAIZ-- OR ANY OTHER FLAVORS OF MAYAN-- UNDER YOUR BELT...
ACK!
TO KEEP YOUR SPANISH COMPANY.
(MAY I HOLD YOUR LITTLE GIRL WHILE YOU RECOVER MISTER PIG?)
(OH-- YES. MISS. THANK YOU.)
(YOU KNOW WHAT PIGS ARE LIKE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE--)


(I'VE KNOWN A PIG OR TWO IN MY DAY. AND YES—)
(THEY ARE TROUBLE AREN'T THEY. .)
(WOULD YOU DANCE THIS FOR A MOMENT— PLEASE?)
(WHAT?)
(I EXPECT THESE SOLDIERS WILL HARASS ME A BIT BUT THEY NEEDN'T HARASS MY CHICKEN.)
(I UNDERSTAND.)
(SOME SOLDIERS ARE GOOD LITTLE SISTER BUT NOT THESE.)
YOU! STAND UP!
LET'S SEE YOUR PAPERS—
NOT HERE. LOOK AT THIS ONE—
WE SHOULD TAKE HER SOMEWHERE

THIS IS NOT A PASSPORT—
NO, CAPTAIN— IT'S NOT.
IT'S AN INVITATION.

THIS LETTER—
HEY. WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT, LITTLE GIRL? ANYTHING FOR ME?
SON OF A PIG! SHUT UP! DON'T YOU SEE—
THIS LADY IS THE HONORED GUEST OF DON ALVARO!

(THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF MY CHICKEN.)
(IT WAS NOTHING.)
(I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.)

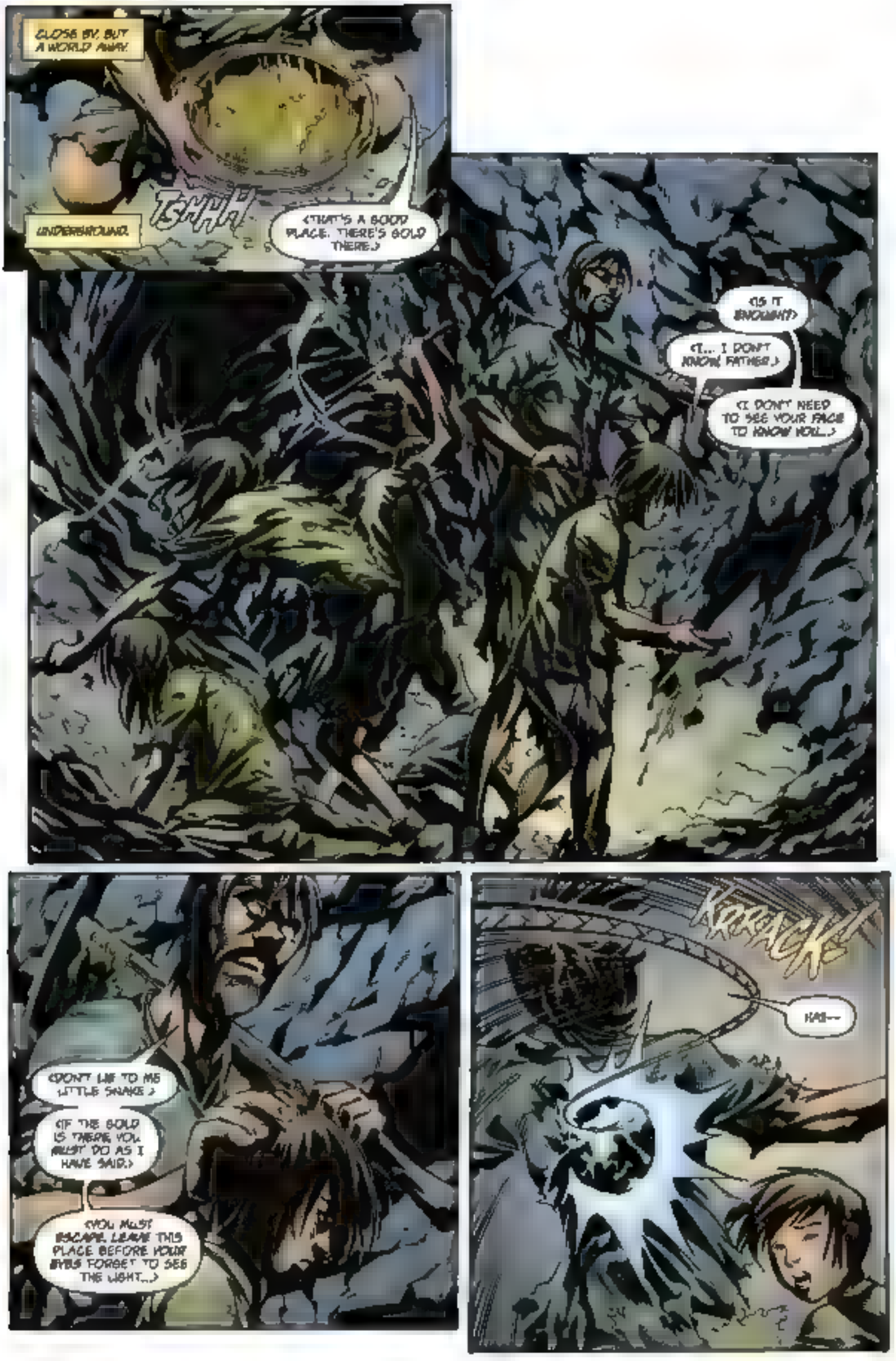

(IF NEITHER OF THOSE GENTLEMEN HAD KNOWN HOW TO READ THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE DONE... OR TRIED TO DO.)
(THAT WAS THE LAST CHECKPOINT BEFORE XOLAD)
(YES.)
(SO YOU...)
(YOU ARE A FRIEND OF... DON ALVARO...)

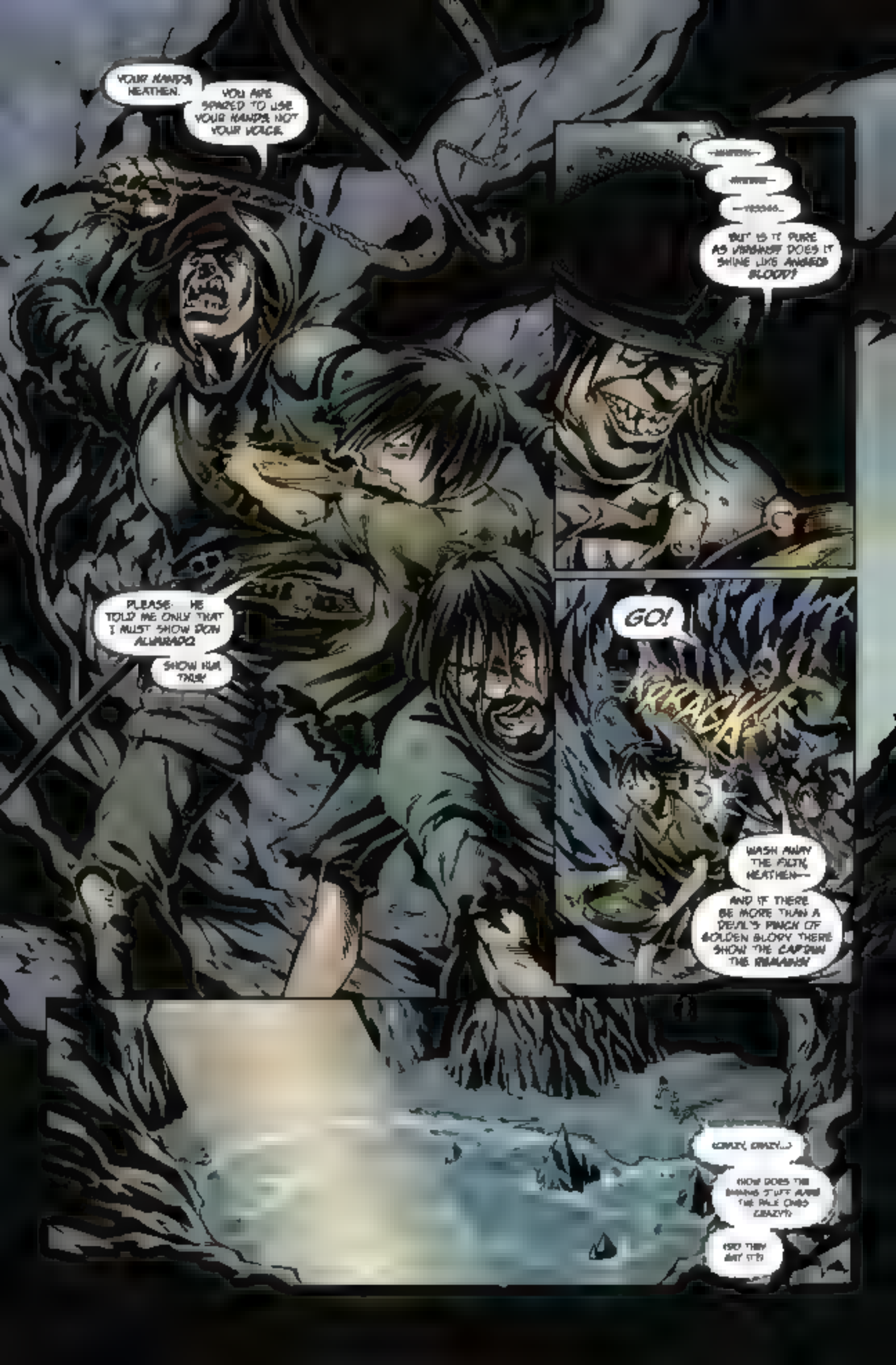
(A FRIEND OF DON ALVARO?)
TIK
MMMMMM...

(I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.)

THREE HOURS LATER.
THE RANCHERO OF DON ALVARO.
GENERAL ALVARADO—
DO ME THE FAVOR OF REMEMBERING BENITO...
HERE AND NOW, I AM DON ALVARO!

GENERAL ALVARADO IS A HUNTED MAN, IMPLICATED IN THE MURDER OF THOUSANDS OF STUPID INDIOS.
WHILE I, MY FRIEND, AM A BUSINESSMAN.
FORGIVE ME, DON ALVARO. BUT YOUR GUEST, SHE—
THOOM!!
YOUR GUEST APOLOGIZES FOR KNOCKING SO EMPHATICALLY, DON ALVARO...
BUT SHE HAS BEEN ON THE BUS FOR FOUR HOURS
AND SHE'LL WAIT HERE IN THE HALLWAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE— AFTER SHE'S BEEN SHOWN THE LADIES' ROOM.
OH, DON'T BE FRIGHTENED.
YOU CAN BRING THE FOREMAN IF YOU LIKE.


CLOSE BY, BUT A WORLD AWAY.
UNDERGROUND.
TSHHH
<THAT'S A GOOD PLACE. THERE'S GOLD THERE.>
<IS IT ENOUGH?>
<I... I DON'T KNOW, FATHER.>
<I DON'T NEED TO SEE YOUR FACE TO KNOW YOU...>
<DON'T LIE TO ME LITTLE SNAKE.>
<IF THE GOLD IS THERE, YOU MUST DO AS I HAVE SAID.>
<YOU MUST ESCAPE. LEAVE THIS PLACE BEFORE YOUR EYES FORGET TO SEE THE LIGHT...>
KRRRACK!
HAH--


YOUR HANDS, HEATHEN.
YOU ARE SPARED TO USE YOUR HANDS, NOT YOUR VOICE.
PLEASE... HE TOLD ME ONLY THAT I MUST SHOW DON ALVARADO.
SHOW HIM THIS!
BUT IS IT PURE AS VIRGINS? DOES IT SHINE LIKE ANGELS BLOOD?
GO!
KRRACK
WASH AWAY THE FILTH, HEATHEN—
AND IF THERE BE MORE THAN A DEVIL'S PINCH OF GOLDEN GLORY THERE SHOW THE CAPTAIN THE REMAINS!
(CRAZY, CRAZY...)
(HOW DOES THE SHINING STUFF MAKE THE PALE ONES CRAZY?)
(DO THEY EAT IT?)

(GOLD PIECES, NOT DUST MASTER! THE CAPTAIN MUST SEE!)
NOT DUST, THE SPAWN OF THE DEVIL SAYS?
(TWO PIECES! ONE BIGGER THAN MY THUMB!)
KNEEL BEFORE YOUR BETTERS, DEVILSPAWN—
DON ALVARADO— THE WRETCH BRINGS FOR YOUR PLEASURE—
NOT DUST, CAPTAIN, BUT THE TRUE STONES OF HEAVEN'S PAVEMENT...
GOLD!

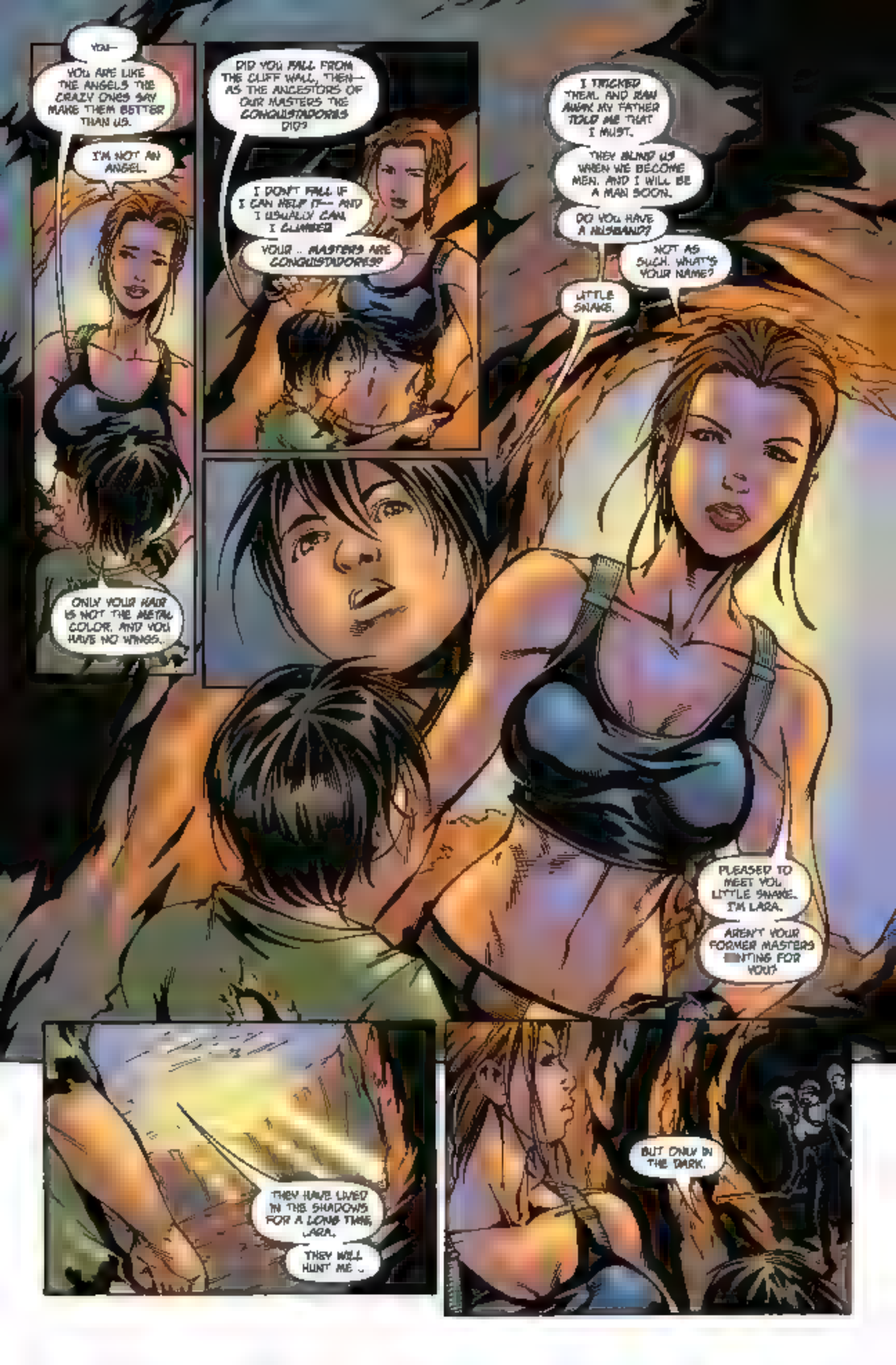
YOU'VE MADE SIX ATTEMPTS TO MAP THESE RUINS?
THREE TIMES I SENT MEN— MY MEN. THREE TIMES I SENT INDIOS NONE RETURNED
THEY FIND TREASURE. THEY STEAL FROM ME AND FLEE INTO THE JUNGLE.
SHKKK
THIS IS YOUR LAND, IS IT?
A QUICHE WOMAN I SPOKE WITH ON THE BUS CALLED THIS VALLEY LEAF TIMMIT...
"LAND OF THE PEOPLE."
SHKKK
SO MANY OF THE MAYA DISAPPEARED... IN THE YEARS OF INSURRECTION.
I PAID THE PRICE FOR IT NOW THIS LAND IS MINE
AMAZING...
ALL RIGHT DON ALVARO I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND FOR YOU.
MY FEE WILL BE EIGHTY-THOUSAND QUE ZALES WHICH WILL BE USED TO ESTABLISH A FREE CLINIC...
FOR YOUR POOR NEIGHBORS WHO HAVEN'T "DISAPPEARED."
YA.

SSSS CLIK

THUD

B-GREAT LORD--- I KNOW I AM LESS THAN A DOG IN YOUR SIGHT
---SHHH---
---GOLD---
BUT PLEASE TELL YOUR SERVANT, NOBLEST OF CONQUISTADORES---
WHY MUST MY PEOPLE SUFFER AND DIE TO GIVE YOUR PEOPLE THE YELLOW METAL?
IN THE WORDS OF THE GREAT CONQUEROR CORTEZ, LITTLE DEVIL, I AND MY COMPANIONS SUFFER FROM A DISEASE OF THE HEART WHICH CAN BE CURED ONLY WITH GOLD...
NO! NO!
CATCH IT, BROTHERS! EVERY RADIANT SPARK! FOR THE GLORY OF HIS MAJESTY CHARLES THE FIFTH!
I'LL WHIP A POUND OF FLESH OFF YOUR BACK FOR EVERY SPECK THAT'S LOST!
THEN YOUR PEOPLE HAVE CRAZY HEARTS.
THE HEARTS OF MY PEOPLE NEED FREEDOM!

KRAKKK!


YOU—
YOU ARE LIKE THE ANGELS THE CRAZY ONES SAY MAKE THEM BETTER THAN US.
I'M NOT AN ANGEL.
ONLY YOUR HAIR IS NOT THE METAL COLOR, AND YOU HAVE NO WINGS..
DID YOU FALL FROM THE CLIFF WALL, THEN— AS THE ANCESTORS OF OUR MASTERS THE CONQUISTADORES DID?
I DON'T FALL IF I CAN HELP IT— AND I USUALLY CAN. I CLIMBED
YOUR .. MASTERS ARE CONQUISTADORES?
I TRICKED THEM. AND RAN AWAY. MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT I MUST.
THEY BLIND US WHEN WE BECOME MEN. AND I WILL BE A MAN SOON.
DO YOU HAVE A HUSBAND?
NOT AS SUCH. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
LITTLE SNAKE.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, LITTLE SNAKE. I'M LARA.
AREN'T YOUR FORMER MASTERS HUNTING FOR YOU?
THEY HAVE LIVED IN THE SHADOWS FOR A LONG TIME, LARA.
THEY WILL HUNT ME ..
BUT ONLY IN THE DARK.

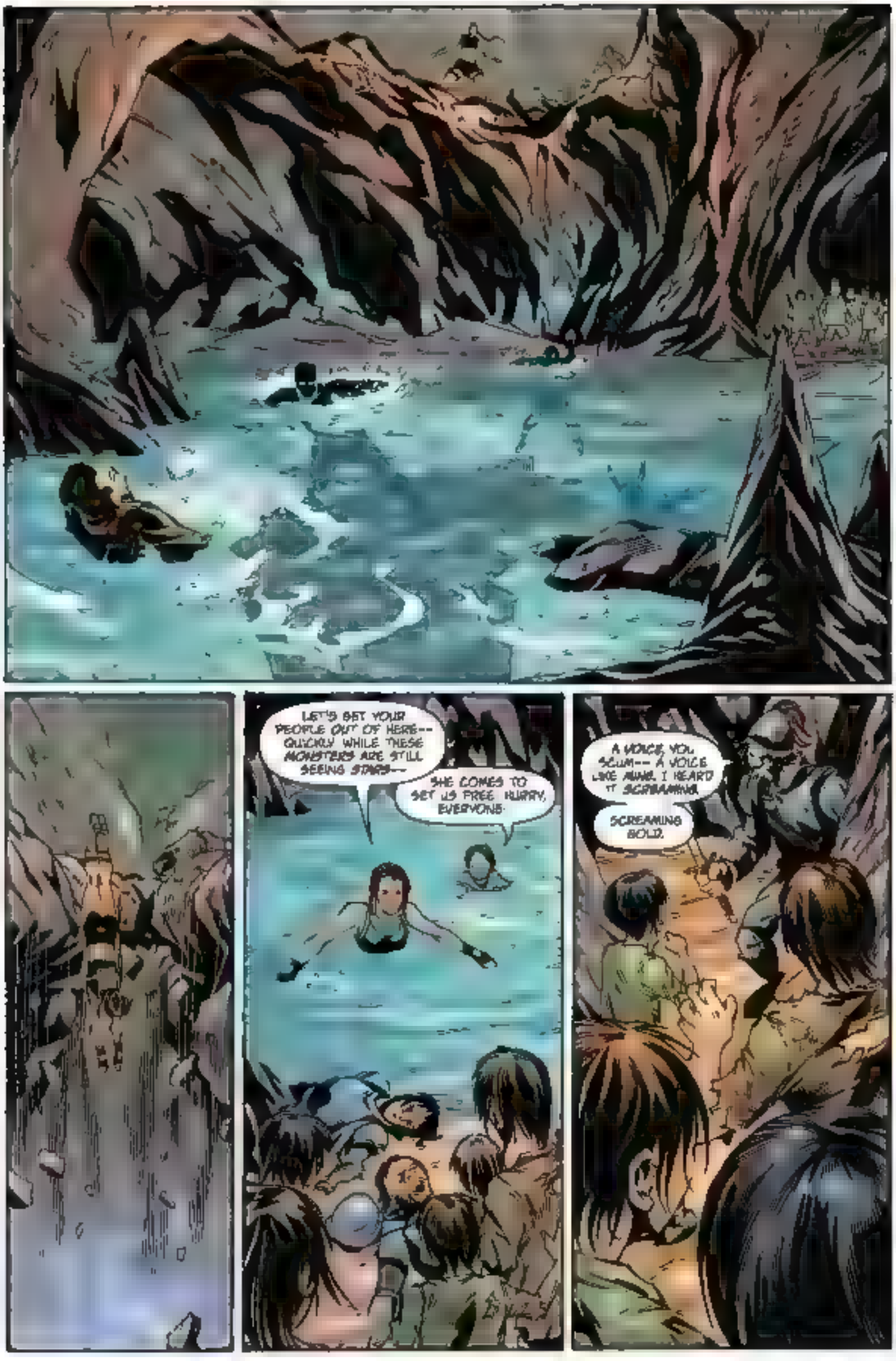
CLANK!
THUK!

CLANK!
THUD!

THE VULTURES WERE QUICK TO FILL THE SKY WHEN THE OTHERS ENTERED THE VALLEY BUT TODAY THE SKIES WERE CLEAR.
SHE HAS FOUND THE PATH.
NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT ELSE THE WITCH HAS FOUND.
AFTER KILLING SO MANY INDIO DOGS FOR THEIR LEGENDS OF GOLD...
MAYBE TONIGHT WE DO SOME KILLING FOR THE REAL THING, EH?
YES, OH YES...
WHERE THE OLD ONES LEFT TRAPS LIKE THIS, BABY VULTURES. THEY LEFT TREASURE...
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
IT'S NO WONDER THEY DON'T COME OUT DURING THE DAY. THEY'RE ADAPTED TO THE DARKNESS...
THAT'S TRUE. IN THE CAVERN ABOVE THE LAKE THERE IS A PLACE WHERE THE LIGHT COMES THROUGH...
AND WHEN DON ALVARADO IS ANGRY WITH ONE OF THE OF HER CONQUISTADORES, HE TIES HIM THERE IN THE DAY--IN THE LIGHT.
DON ALVARADO?
HE TIES THEM THERE IN THE LIGHT AND THEY CLOSE THEIR EYES AND SCREAM.

LOVELY.
LITTLE SNAKE-- CAN YOU HELP ME FIND THE PLACE WHERE THE LIGHT STREAMS IN? IT SHOULD BE NEAR HERE.
YOUR LAKE SOUNDS LIKE A CENOTE, AND A CENOTE'S CEILING IS TYPICALLY DOMED-- AND THINNEST AT THE APEX OF THE DOME.
IT'S HERE. I DROPPED A STONE AND HEARD IT SPLASH...
VERY GOOD. LITTLE SNAKE-- DO THE CONQUISTADORES SPEAK YOUR PEOPLE'S LANGUAGE?
OH, NO! NO! THEY SAY IT IS ONLY FIT FOR DEVILS AND DOGS.
EXCELLENT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PLAYING PROMETHEUS, DEAR.
WHEN I TELL YOU, SHOUT-- SHOUT AS LOUDLY AS YOU CAN. TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO COVER THEIR EYES--
AND YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES TOO, ALL RIGHT?
LADY!
GOOD EVENING, DON ALVARO--
OR SHOULD I SAY, GENERAL ALVARADO?
TAKE HER.

OH, I THINK NOT
MOVE LITTLE SNAKE--
KRRRUNCH!
KRRRACK!
FFSSS!
WAK!
TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO COVER THEIR EYES!
MOTHER OF GOD--
GOLD!
IT'S MINE!


LET'S GET YOUR PEOPLE OUT OF HERE-- QUICKLY WHILE THESE MONSTERS ARE STILL SEEING STARS--
SHE COMES TO SET US FREE. HURRY, EVERYONE.
A VOICE, YOU SCUM-- A VOICE LIKE MINE. I HEARD IT SCREAMING.
SCREAMING BOLD.

YOUR BROTHER'S VOICE, CONQUISTADOR. A SON OF YOUR ANCESTORS, BY HIS NAME...
HE FOUND TREASURE HIDDEN IN THE WATERS OF THE LAKE. ENOUGH GOLD TO SINK A GALLEON...
IN THE CENOTE? IMPOSSIBLE! RETURN THESE DOGS TO THEIR KENNEL, WENCH—
OR I'LL SHOVE A TONGUE OF CONSECRATED STEEL DOWN YOUR LYING THROAT AND WATCH YOU DIE!
YOU'D FIGHT A WOMAN TO KEEP YOUR SLAVES, CONQUISTADOR?
WHILE YOUR BROTHER TAKES YOUR GOLD?
I THOUGHT NOT.

YOU'RE THE LUCKY ONES.
WE'LL HAVE YOUR CHAINS OFF YOU SOON, AND LEAVE THIS PLACE...
"BUT THE CHILDREN OF THE CONQUISTADORES-- THE BLIND ONES, THE ANIMALS, THE MURDERERS AND THIEVES---
"THEY'LL WEAR THEIR CHAINS UNTIL THEY DIE."
HA, HAHA, HAHAHA.
IT'S MINE. SO MUCH GOLD. SO SOFT, SO PURE--
SO HEAVY.
NOW--
BRING THE REST.
THE END.
YEAH, THROWIN' DOWN OLD SCHOOL!
ALL I WANTED WAS SOME GOLD...

ANGEL OF D

SCRIPT
ADAM HUGHES AND JAMES BONNY

PENCILS
TONY DANIEL

INKS
JONATHAN SIBAL

COLORS
TYSON WENGLER

LETTERS
DREAMER DESIGN, ROBIN SPEHAR,
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COVER ART
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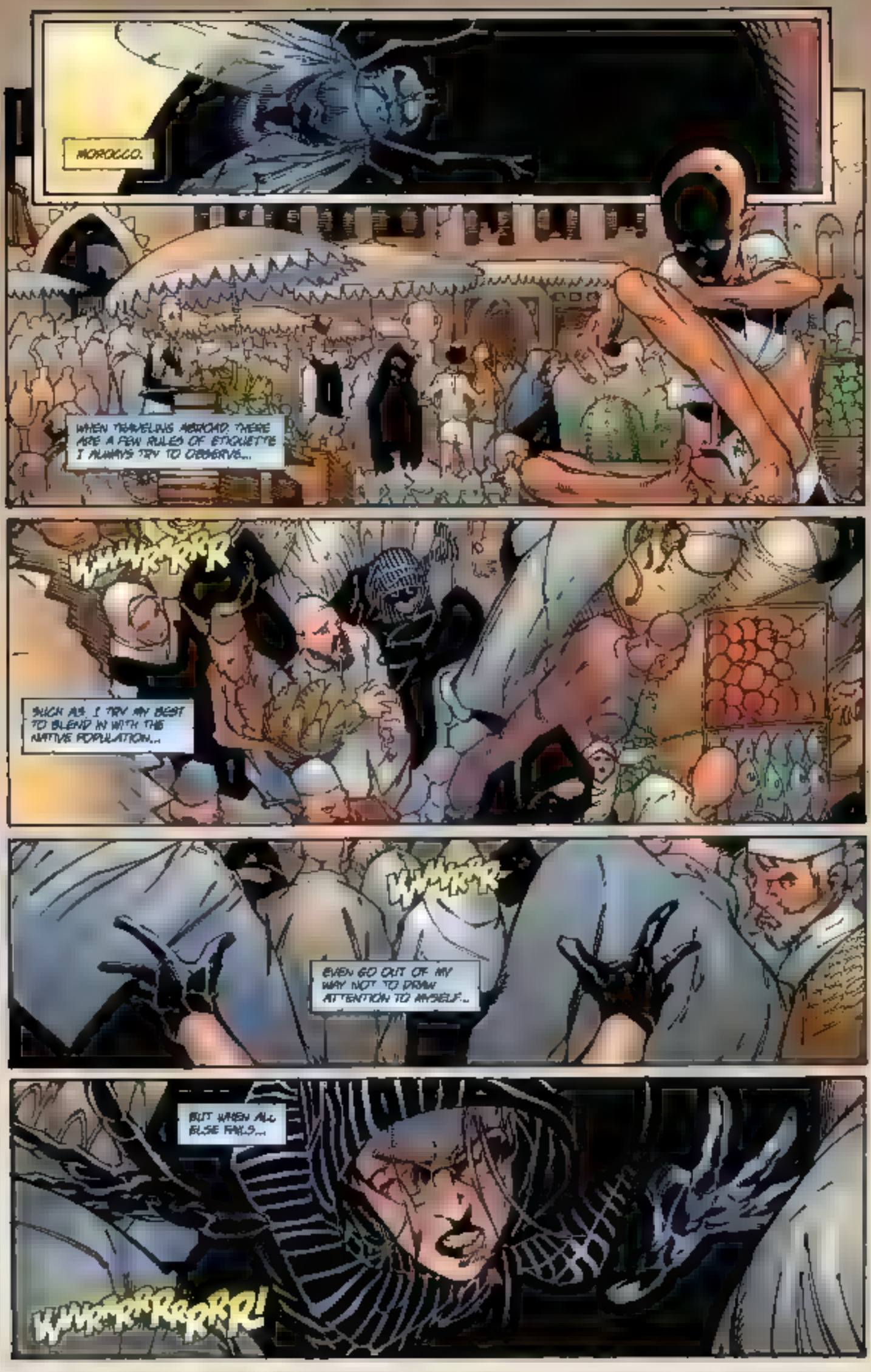
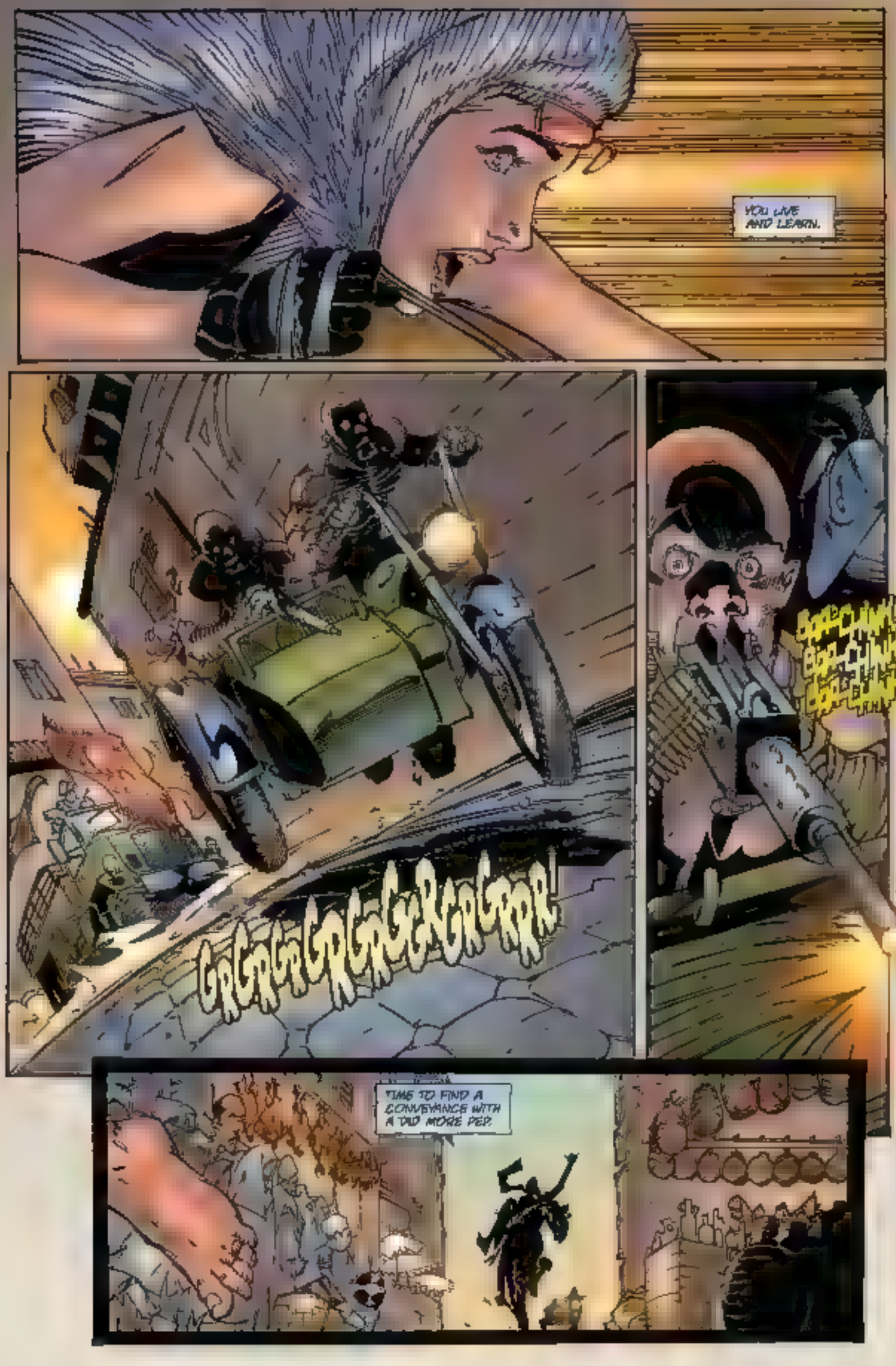

MOROCCO.
WHEN TRAVELING ABROAD, THERE ARE A FEW RULES OF ETIQUETTE I ALWAYS TRY TO OBSERVE...
WWWRRRRR
SUCH AS, I TRY MY BEST TO BLEND IN WITH THE NATIVE POPULATION...
WWWRRR
EVEN GO OUT OF MY WAY NOT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO MYSELF...
BUT WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS...
WWWRRRRRRRRR!

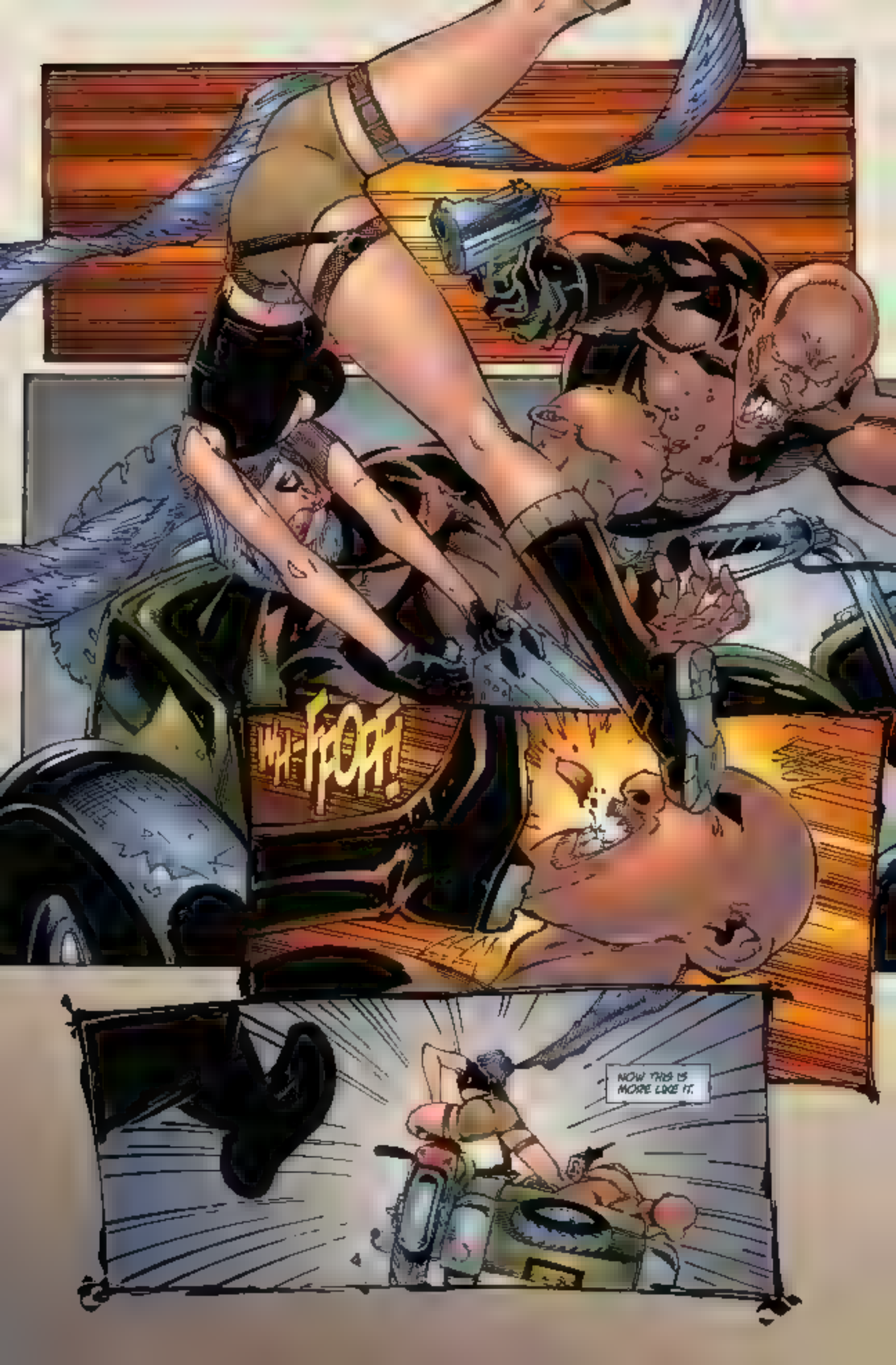
THE RULES OF ETIQUETTE GO OUT THE WINDOW.
RRRRROOOOAARR!
BRUP-CHING! BRUP-CHING! BRUP-CHING!
SOMETIMES YOU'RE FORCED TO BE FLEXIBLE WITH YOUR ITINERARY...
EVEN TO THE POINT OF CHANGING YOUR MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.

WH-HUH?
THANKS, CHEERS!
POIT!
WAAAHHHAA!
HUT? HUT? HUT?
FFFUFFFH

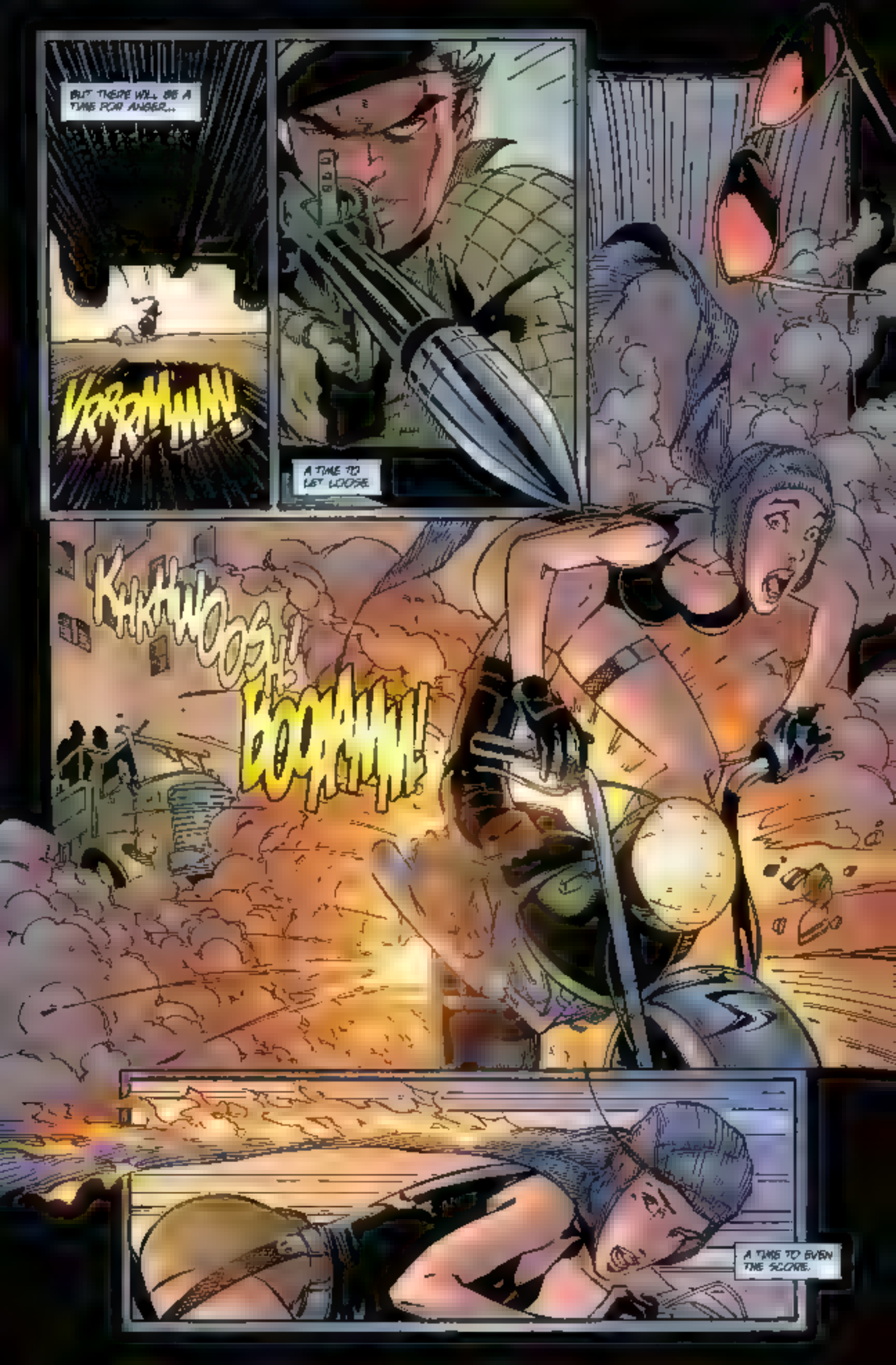
I SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING...
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I WAS BEING SET UP FROM THE VERY START.
KCHAU!
RATATATAT!
I TRUSTED THE WORD OF A MAN I USED TO TRUST...
BEFORE HE CHANGED... AND BECAME SOMEONE I COULD NO LONGER BELIEVE IN.
YET, DEEP INSIDE I SUPPOSE I WANTED TO BELIEVE IN HIM AGAIN.


YOU LIVE AND LEARN.
GRGRGRGRGRGRGRGRGRRR!
TIME TO FIND A CONVEYANCE WITH A DAD MORE PEP.

HELLO. NOW THAT'S MORE MY SPEED.
GGRRGGRRGGRR!
EVEN IF IT'S A BIT CLUNKY FOR MY TASTE.
WHATEVA. WATTIN' FER?! SHOOT HER.
SORRY TO DROP IN LIKE THIS...


WH-FOOM!
NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.

I COULD FEEL THE ANGER OVER THE BETRAYAL SLOWLY RISING WITHIN ME.
BUT THIS WAS THE WRONG TIME TO GET ANGRY. ANGER CLOUDS THE MIND.
THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF.
HUH?
BWHO
OOM!


BUT THERE WILL BE A TIME FOR ANGER...
VRRROMMM!
A TIME TO LET LOOSE.
KHKHWOSH!
BOOMM!!
A TIME TO EVEN THE SCORE.

A TIME AND A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING...
ESPECIALLY REVENGE.
WRRRMM!

WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT, LIFE IS ALL ABOUT TIMING.
VRMMMMM!
WSSSSSSS
KA-BOAAAM!
IT CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

LIFE CAN BE SO COMPLICATED...

WHILE DEATH IS SIMPLE.

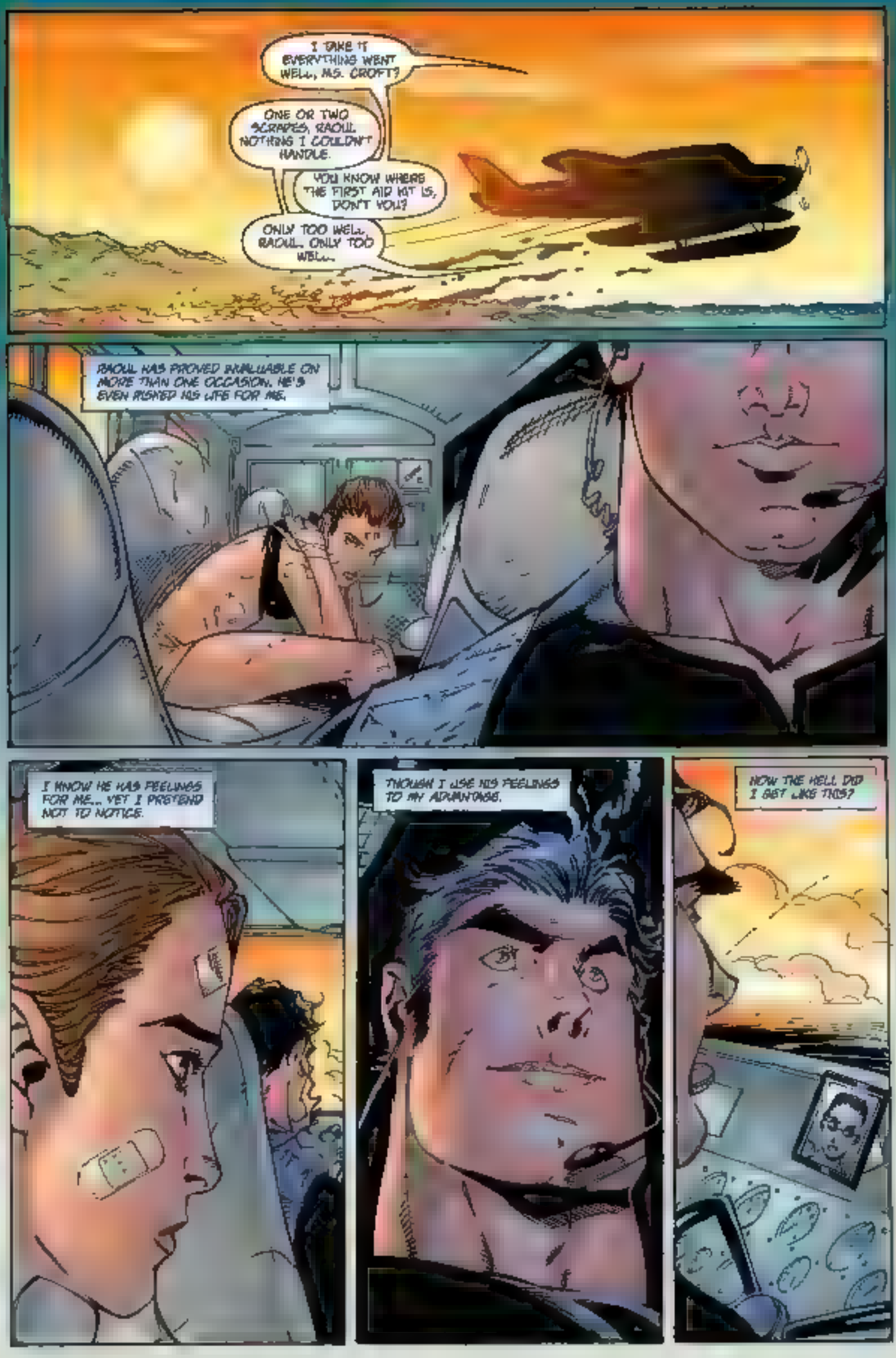
ALL IT TAKES IS ONE WRONG MOVE.

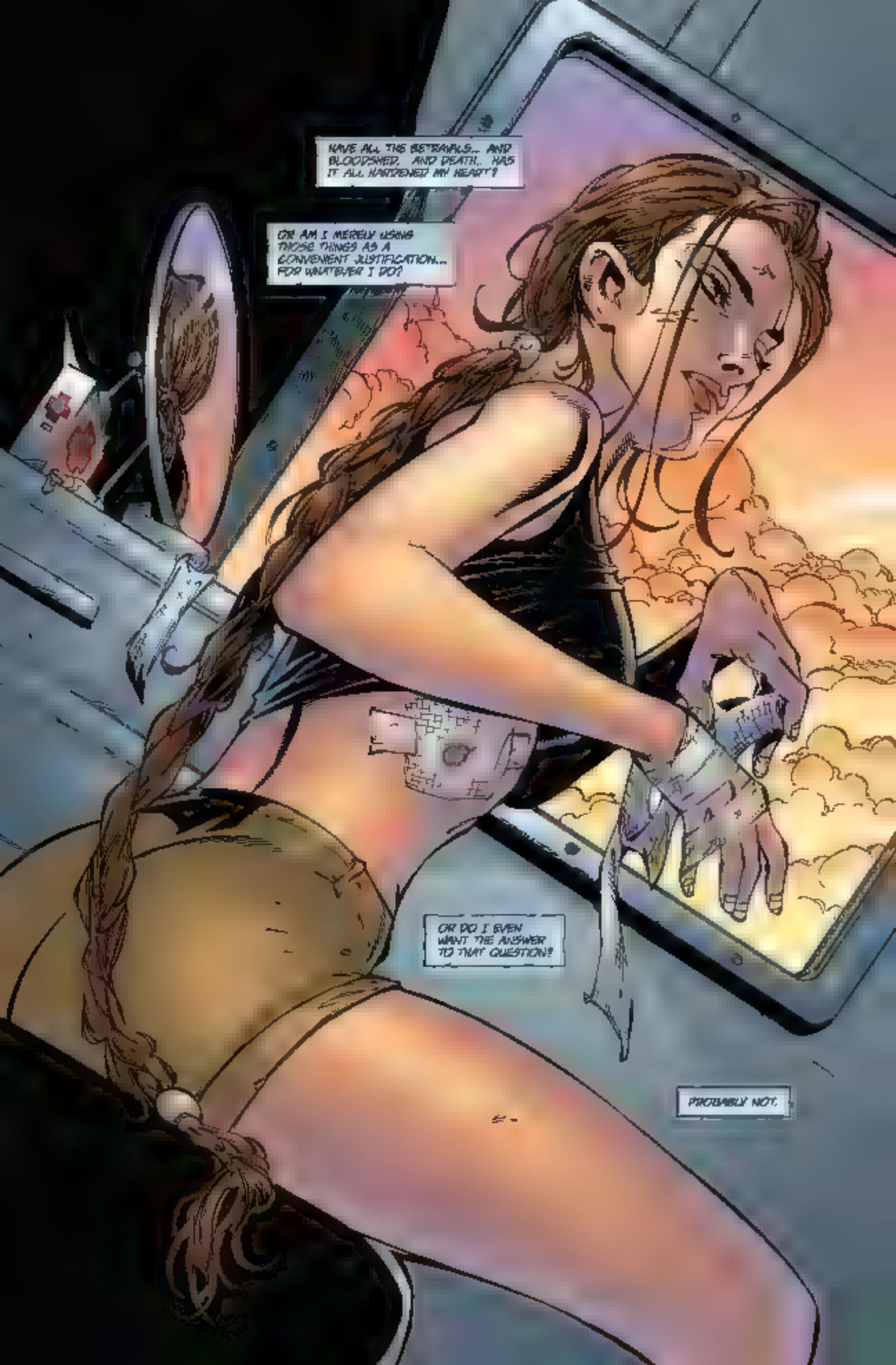
THAT'S WHY IT'S ALWAYS WISE TO PLAN AHEAD.

BECAUSE, LIKE LIFE TRAVELING CAN BE UNPREDICTABLE.

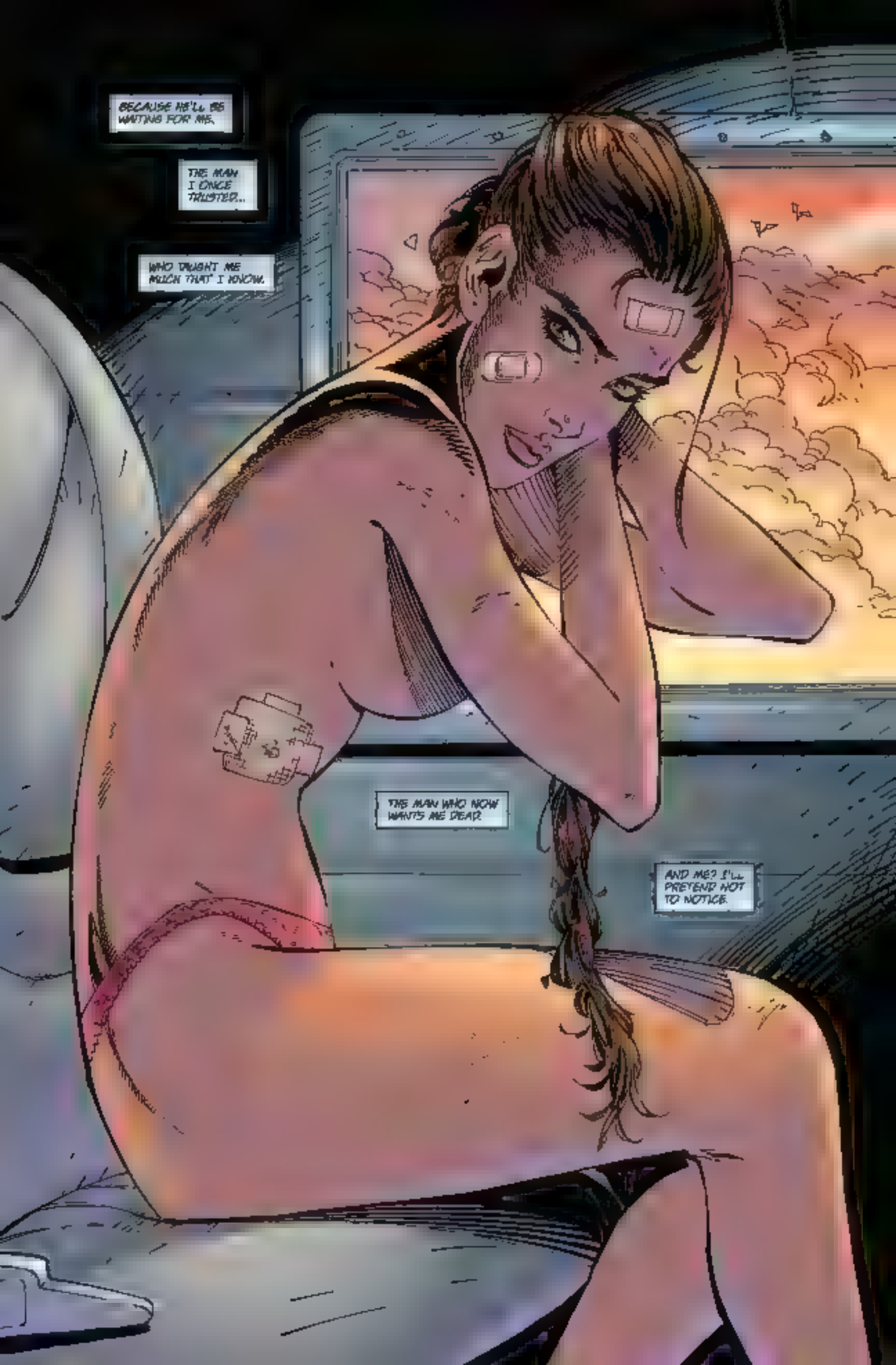
IT'S A BIT OF A COMFORT TO KNOW THERE'S SOMEONE I CAN STILL COUNT ON...

EVEN IF THEY KEEP CHANGING.


I TAKE IT EVERYTHING WENT WELL, MS. CROFT?
ONE OR TWO SCRAPES, RAOUL. NOTHING I COULDN'T HANDLE.
YOU KNOW WHERE THE FIRST AID KIT IS, DON'T YOU?
ONLY TOO WELL, RAOUL. ONLY TOO WELL...
RAOUL HAS PROVED INVALUABLE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION. HE'S EVEN RISKED HIS LIFE FOR ME.
I KNOW HE HAS FEELINGS FOR ME... YET I PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE.
THOUGH I USE HIS FEELINGS TO MY ADVANTAGE.
HOW THE HELL DID I GET LIKE THIS?


HAVE ALL THE BETRAYALS... AND BLOODSHED... AND DEATH... HAS IT ALL HARDENED MY HEART?
OR AM I MERELY USING THOSE THINGS AS A CONVENIENT JUSTIFICATION... FOR WHATEVER I DO?
OR DO I EVEN WANT THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION?
PROBABLY NOT.

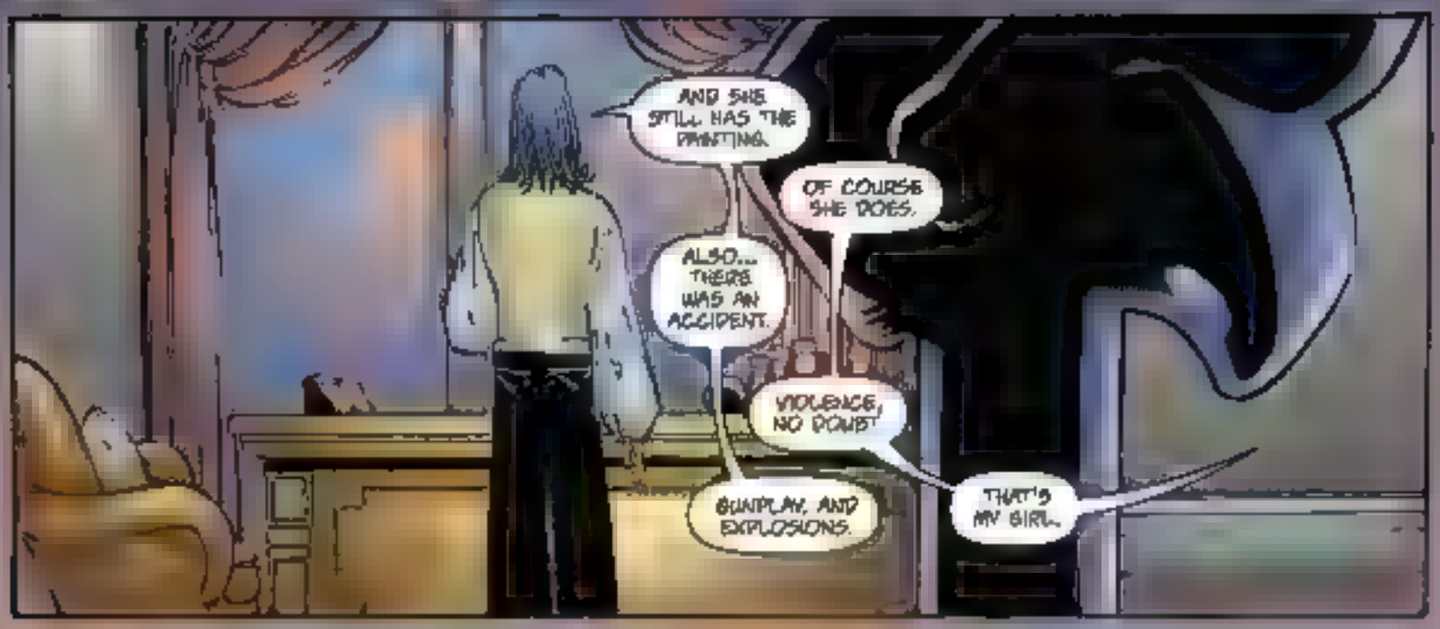
MAYBE IT'S BEST IF I DON'T LOOK TOO HARD AT MYSELF.
THAT SORT OF THING MIGHT TEND TO SLOW ME DOWN. AT LEAST A STEP OR TWO.
AND I CAN'T HAVE THAT.
ESPECIALLY NOW.

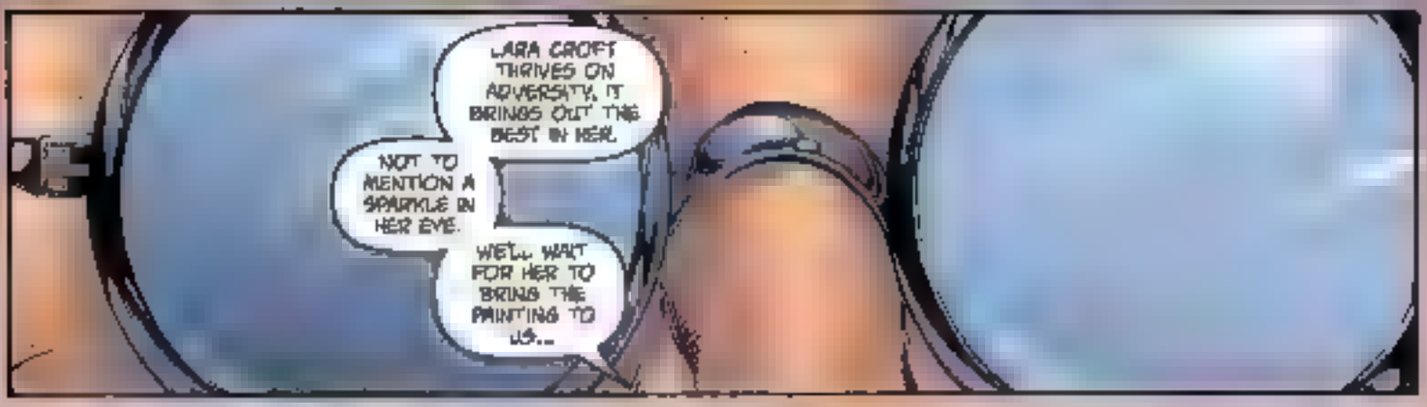

BECAUSE HE'LL BE WAITING FOR ME.
THE MAN I ONCE TRUSTED...
WHO TAUGHT ME MUCH THAT I KNOW.
THE MAN WHO NOW WANTS ME DEAD.
AND ME? I'LL PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE.

BUT IT CAN'T BE ABOUT FORTUNE...
NOT WITH THIS MAN...
IT MUST BE ABOUT POWER.
WHAT HE'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIS WHOLE LIFE.
THOUGH THIS TIME, IT'S IN THE FORM OF A PAINTING.
CENTURIES OLD. ONE OF A SET OF FIVE. THEY'RE KNOWN AS THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS AND, LEGEND HAS IT THAT, TOGETHER THEY POSSESS GREAT POWER.
BUT I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE.

WOULD YOU PLEASE WAKE ME WHEN WE GET TO PARIS, RACHEL?
OF COURSE, MS CROFT.
SWEET DREAMS.

PARIS.
TROUBLING. WE CERTAINLY SHOULD HAVE HEARD SOMETHING BY NOW.
RNGG- RNGG!
OUI? OUI. MMMMM. MMMMM. ESIGHE
OUI. D'ACCORD.
M'SIEUR, IT SEEMS MS. CROFT HAS GOTTEN PAST OUR AGENTS IN MOROCCO...


AND SHE STILL HAS THE PAINTING.
OF COURSE SHE DOES.
ALSO... THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT.
VIOLENCE, NO DOUBT
GUNPLAY AND EXPLOSIONS.
THAT'S MY GIRL.


LARA CROFT THRIVES ON ADVERSITY. IT BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN HER.
NOT TO MENTION A SPARKLE IN HER EYE.
WE'LL WAIT FOR HER TO BRING THE PAINTING TO US...

AND WE'LL FINISH THE JOB OURSELVES.
FINISH... MS. CROFT... OURSELVES?
IF SHE WERE TO LEARN WHAT WE INTEND TO DO WITH THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS, SHE WOULD NO DOUBT TRY TO STOP US. AND WE CAN'T HAVE THAT.

SO LARA CROFT MUST DIE.
TO BE CONTINUED...

AH!

SCRIPT
JAMES BONNY

PENCILS
TONY DANIEL

INKS
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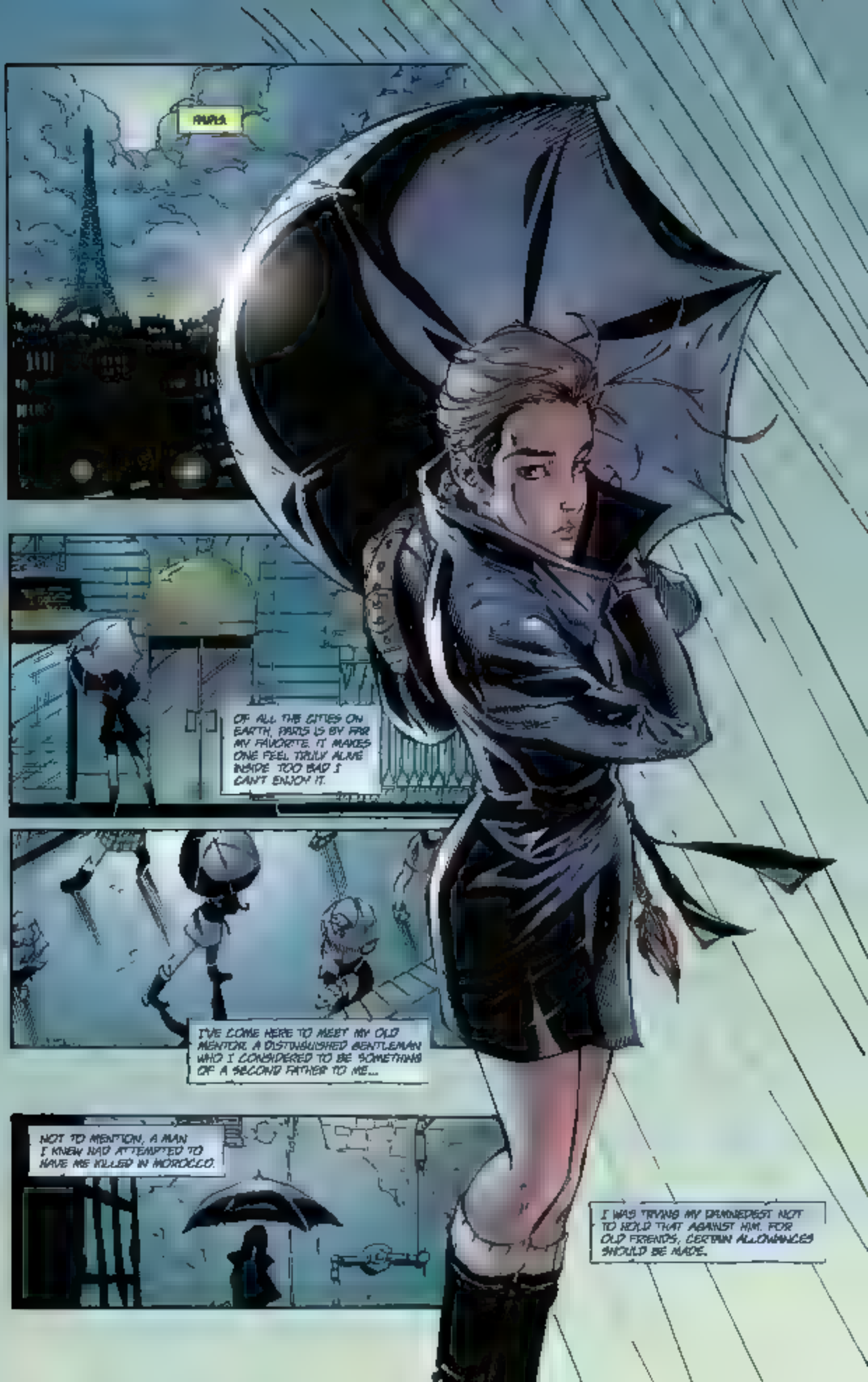
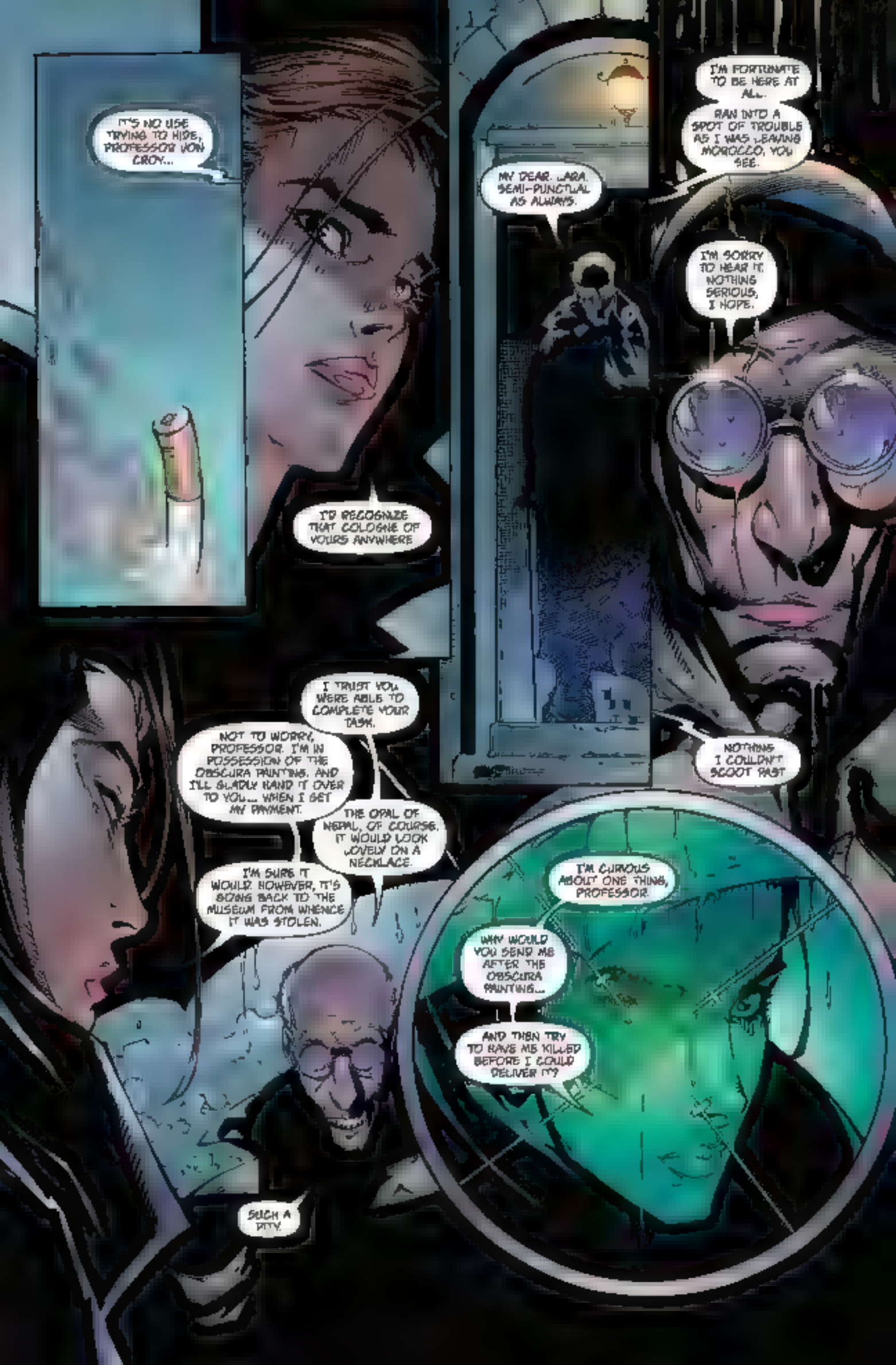

PARIS.
OF ALL THE CITIES ON EARTH, PARIS IS BY FAR MY FAVORITE. IT MAKES ONE FEEL TRULY ALIVE INSIDE. TOO BAD I CAN'T ENJOY IT.
I'VE COME HERE TO MEET MY OLD MENTOR, A DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN WHO I CONSIDERED TO BE SOMETHING OF A SECOND FATHER TO ME...
NOT TO MENTION, A MAN I KNEW HAD ATTEMPTED TO HAVE ME KILLED IN MOROCCO.
I WAS TRYING MY DAMNEDEST NOT TO HOLD THAT AGAINST HIM. FOR OLD FRIENDS, CERTAIN ALLOWANCES SHOULD BE MADE.


IT'S NO USE TRYING TO HIDE, PROFESSOR VON CROY...
I'D RECOGNIZE THAT COLOGNE OF YOURS ANYWHERE
MY DEAR LARA. SEMI-PUNCTUAL AS ALWAYS.
I'M FORTUNATE TO BE HERE AT ALL.
RAN INTO A SPOT OF TROUBLE AS I WAS LEAVING MOROCCO, YOU SEE.
I'M SORRY TO HEAR IT. NOTHING SERIOUS, I HOPE.
NOTHING I COULDN'T SCOOT PAST
I TRUST YOU WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE YOUR TASK.
NOT TO WORRY, PROFESSOR. I'M IN POSSESSION OF THE OBSCURA PAINTING. AND I'LL GLADLY HAND IT OVER TO YOU... WHEN I GET MY PAYMENT.
THE OPAL OF NEPAL, OF COURSE. IT WOULD LOOK LOVELY ON A NECKLACE.
I'M SURE IT WOULD. HOWEVER, IT'S GOING BACK TO THE MUSEUM FROM WHENCE IT WAS STOLEN.
I'M CURIOUS ABOUT ONE THING, PROFESSOR.
WHY WOULD YOU SEND ME AFTER THE OBSCURA PAINTING...
AND THEN TRY TO HAVE ME KILLED BEFORE I COULD DELIVER IT?
SUCH A PITY.

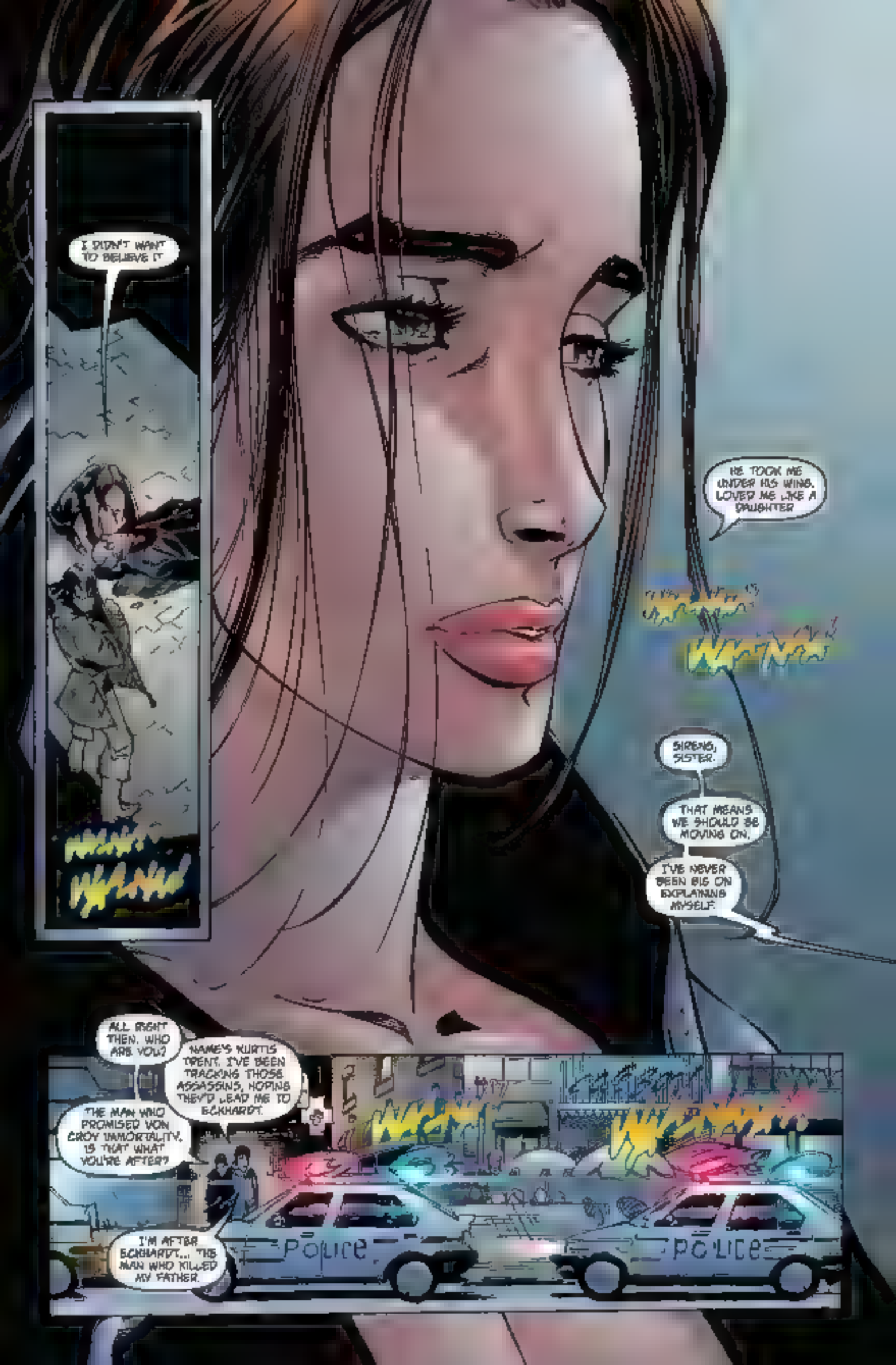
LARA! I'M FLABBERGASTED THAT YOU COULD MAKE SUCH AN ALLEGATION!
DEAR CHILD, AFTER EVERYTHING—
—WE'VE BEEN THROUGH...
CHKOW!
I NEVER SAW THIS COMING.

SNAP!
BOOAM!
BOAM!
BOOAM!
BOAM!
BOOAMM!
ZINNG!

FFSPLAT!
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK

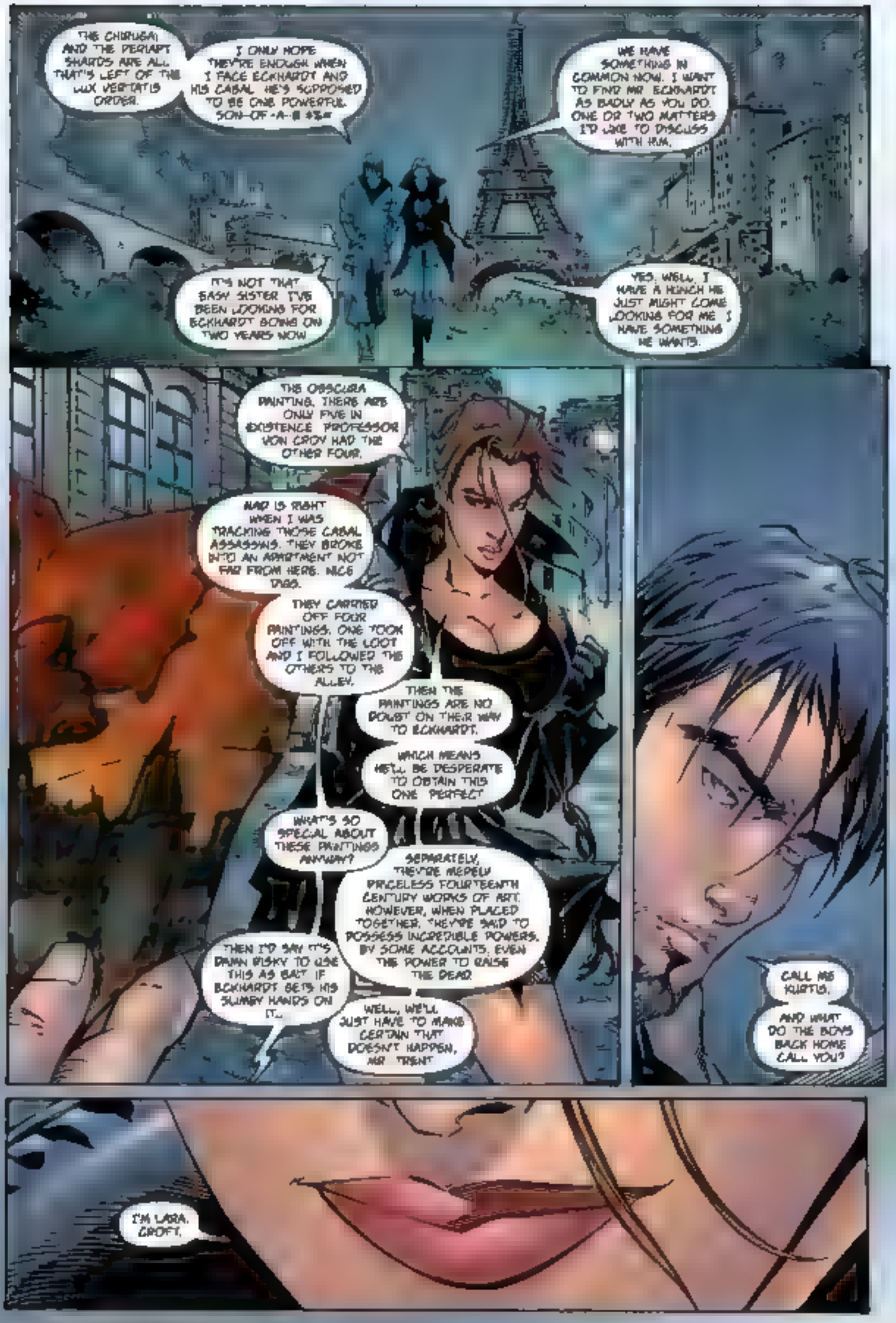
AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS CHAP IS THE STAR OF THE SHOW.

WHO ON EARTH...?
THEY'RE CABAL ASSASSINS. YOU'RE LUCKY TO STILL BE BREATHING, SISTER
NO NEED TO THANK ME.
NICE GUNS.
I MEANT, WHO ARE...
GASP?... LARA... GASP?
I'M... SORRY... LARA, TRULY...
WHY, PROFESSOR? WHY DID YOU TRY TO KILL ME?
BECAUSE I KNEW... YOU WOULD TRY... TO STOP ME
STOP YOU? FROM DOING WHAT?
I'M SORRY, LARA... BUT ECKHARDT...
ECKHARDT!!!
HE PROMISED ME... PROMISED ME...
IMMORTALITY!


I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT
HE TOOK ME UNDER HIS WING. LOVED ME LIKE A DAUGHTER
SIRENS, SISTER.
THAT MEANS WE SHOULD BE MOVING ON.
I'VE NEVER BEEN BIG ON EXPLAINING MYSELF.
ALL RIGHT THEN. WHO ARE YOU?
NAME'S KURTIS TRENT. I'VE BEEN TRACKING THOSE ASSASSINS, HOPING THEY'D LEAD ME TO ECKHARDT.
THE MAN WHO PROMISED VON CROY IMMORTALITY. IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFTER?
I'M AFTER ECKHARDT... THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FATHER.
Police
Police

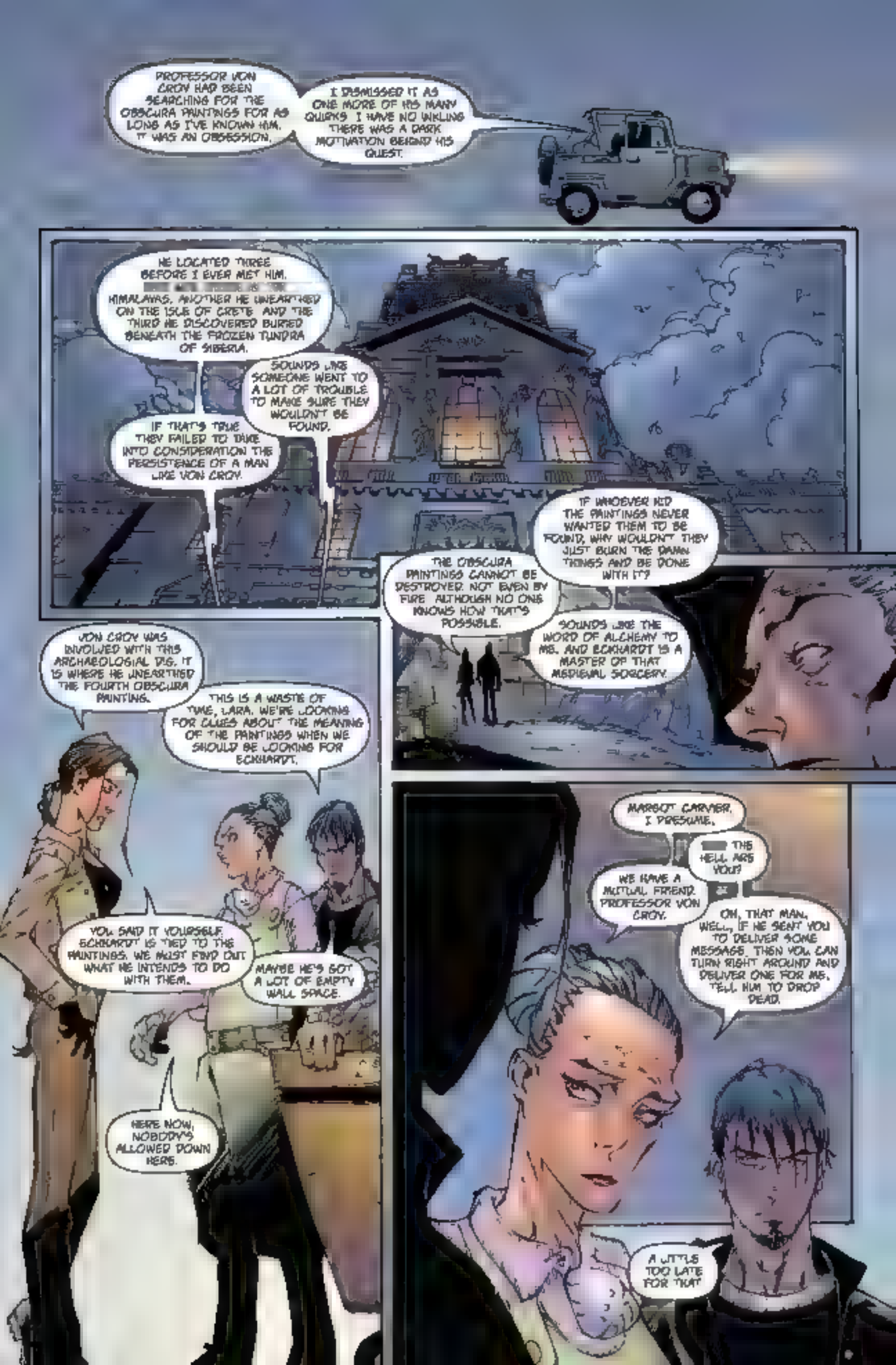
MY FATHER, LIKE HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM, WAS AN ADEPT IN THE ORDER OF LUX VERITATIS- AN ANCIENT, MYSTICAL BROTHERHOOD, DEVOTED TO DEFENDING THE WORLD FROM THE PRACTITIONERS OF DARK MAGIC AND THE BLACK ARTS
WHEN I WAS JUST A BOY, MY FATHER TRAINED ME AS AN INITATE IN THE ORDER. IT WAS HIS DREAM THAT I WOULD ONE DAY JOIN HIM, FIGHTING EVIL AT HIS SIDE.
BUT AS I GREW OLDER I HAD DREAMS OF MY OWN SELFISH DREAMS. AND FRIGHTENING DREAMS
AS MELODRAMATIC AS IT SOUNDS, I JOINED THE FOREIGN LEGION. I TRAVELED TO FAR OFF LANDS MET EXOTIC PEOPLE AND KILLED THEM.
BUT NO MATTER HOW FAR MY TRAVELS TOOK ME IT NEVER SEEMED FAR ENOUGH. I COULD NEVER SHAKE THE FEELING THAT I WAS BEING STALKED. STALKED BY A DEMON IN THE NIGHT.
THE DEMON HAUNTED MY DREAMS. IT SEEMED TO BE SLUMBERING IN THE GODFORSAKEN EARTH BENEATH ME.

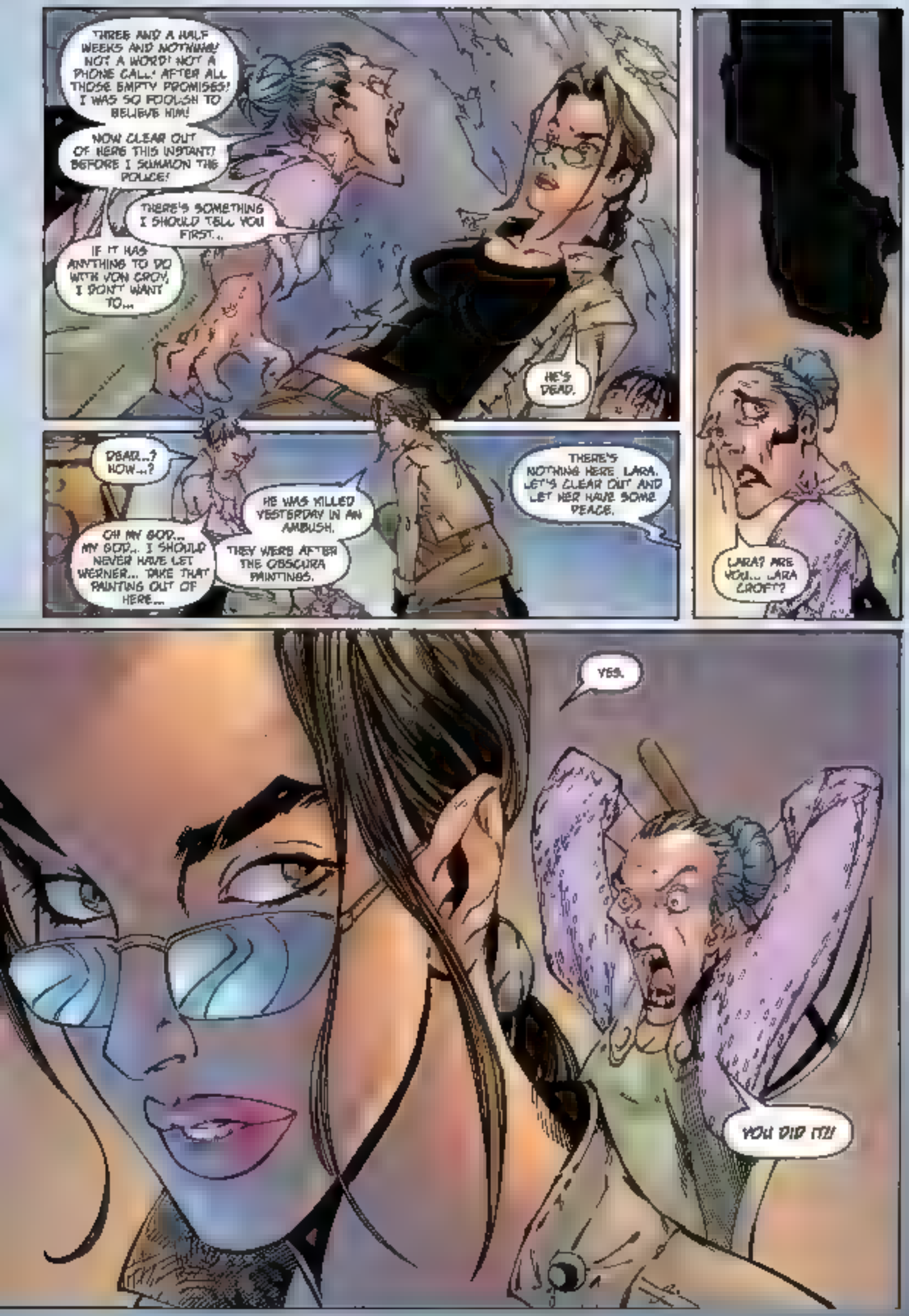
I LATER CAME TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEMON IN MY DREAMS WAS ECKHARDT PIETER CAN ECKHARDT. THE BLACK ALCHEMIST.
FOR 500 YEARS, ECKHARDT WAS IMPRISONED IN A CONTAINMENT PIT IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH. PLACED THERE BY THE LUX VERITATIS, SENTENCED TO AN ETERNITY OF LIVING DARKNESS FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE DEEDS.
BUT ECKHARDT ESCAPED AND HE BEGAN HUNTING DOWN AND MURDERING THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE WHO HAD IMPRISONED HIM.
THE LAST TO BE KILLED WAS MY FATHER. WHEN I LEARNED OF HIS MURDER, I RETURNED HOME
AND FOUND HE HAD LEFT ME AN INHERITANCE. THE CHIRUGAI - THE ANCIENT, SACRED WEAPON OF THE LUX VERITATIS. AND THE PERIAPT SHARDS, WHICH ARE POWERFUL TALISMANS. THOUGH THEIR USE REMAINS A MYSTERY TO ME.


THE CHIRUGAI AND THE PERIAPT SHARDS ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE LUX VERITATIS ORDER.
I ONLY HOPE THEY'RE ENOUGH WHEN I FACE ECKHARDT AND HIS CABAL. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE ONE POWERFUL SON-OF-A-B#%=
WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON NOW. I WANT TO FIND MR ECKHARDT AS BADLY AS YOU DO. ONE OR TWO MATTERS I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH HIM.
IT'S NOT THAT EASY SISTER I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ECKHARDT GOING ON TWO YEARS NOW
YES. WELL, I HAVE A HUNCH HE JUST MIGHT COME LOOKING FOR ME. I HAVE SOMETHING HE WANTS.
THE OBSCURA PAINTING. THERE ARE ONLY FIVE IN EXISTENCE. PROFESSOR VON CROY HAD THE OTHER FOUR.
NAD IS RIGHT WHEN I WAS TRACKING THOSE CABAL ASSASSINS. THEY BROKE INTO AN APARTMENT NOT FAR FROM HERE. NICE DIGS.
THEY CARRIED OFF FOUR PAINTINGS. ONE TOOK OFF WITH THE LOOT AND I FOLLOWED THE OTHERS TO THE ALLEY.
THEN THE PAINTINGS ARE NO DOUBT ON THEIR WAY TO ECKHARDT.
WHICH MEANS HE'LL BE DESPERATE TO OBTAIN THIS ONE PERFECT
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THESE PAINTINGS ANYWAY?
SEPARATELY, THEY'RE MERELY PRICELESS FOURTEENTH CENTURY WORKS OF ART. HOWEVER, WHEN PLACED TOGETHER, THEY'RE SAID TO POSSESS INCREDIBLE POWERS. BY SOME ACCOUNTS, EVEN THE POWER TO RAISE THE DEAD.
THEN I'D SAY IT'S DAMN RISKY TO USE THIS AS BAIT IF ECKHARDT GETS HIS SLIMEY HANDS ON IT...
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN, MR TRENT
CALL ME KURTIS.
AND WHAT DO THE BOYS BACK HOME CALL YOU?
I'M LARA. CROFT.

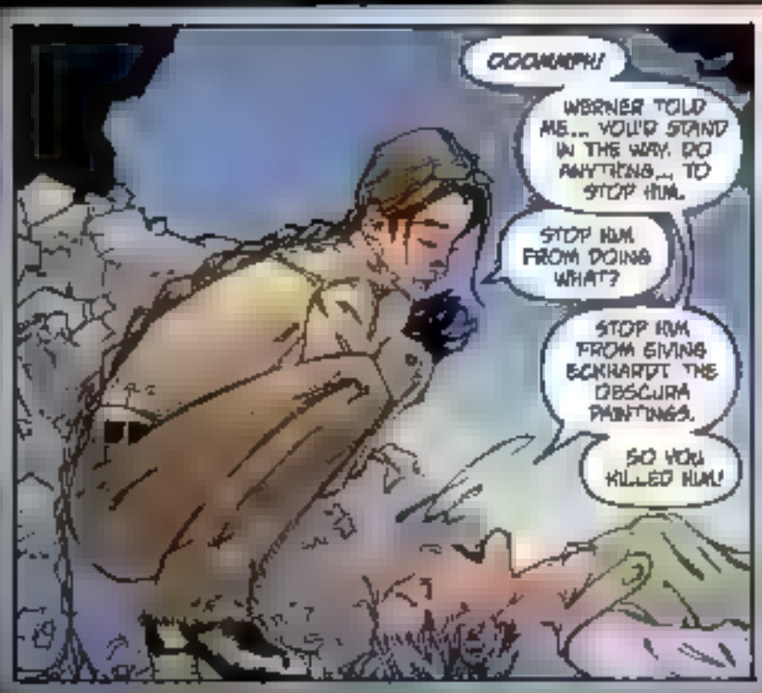
PRAGUE.
THE LONG SLEEP HAS NEARLY COME TO AN END, MY FRIENDS. SOON WE SHALL GREET A GLORIOUS NEW DAY. TOGETHER.
FOUR OF THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS ARE NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF OUR AGENTS IN PARIS. AND WE KNOW WHO HAS THE FIFTH.
ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO ACQUIRE IT
QUESTION, MR. ECKHARDT. I THOUGHT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO ACQUIRE ALL FIVE PAINTINGS TODAY.
THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A QUESTION, MR. TYLER
I'VE INVESTED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND MONEY IN THIS LITTLE ENDEAVOR OF YOURS. WE ALL HAVE.
SO MY QUESTION IS THIS, WHEN THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO SEE A RETURN ON OUR INVESTMENT?

THAT'S A FAIR QUESTION.
SSHHWWNG!
ARE THERE ANY MORE QUESTIONS?
GRGRRRCH!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL ADJOURN THIS SESSION.
YOU ALL HAVE WORK TO DO.
SACRED WORK.


PROFESSOR VON CROY HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS FOR AS LONG AS I'VE KNOWN HIM. IT WAS AN OBSESSION.
I DISMISSED IT AS ONE MORE OF HIS MANY QUIRKS. I HAVE NO INKLING THERE WAS A DARK MOTIVATION BEHIND HIS QUEST.
HE LOCATED THREE BEFORE I EVER MET HIM. [redacted] HIMALAYAS, ANOTHER HE UNEARTHED ON THE ISLE OF CRETE AND THE THIRD HE DISCOVERED BURIED BENEATH THE FROZEN TUNDRA OF SIBERIA.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO MAKE SURE THEY WOULDN'T BE FOUND.
IF THAT'S TRUE THEY FAILED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE PERSISTENCE OF A MAN LIKE VON CROY.
IF WHOEVER HID THE PAINTINGS NEVER WANTED THEM TO BE FOUND, WHY WOULDN'T THEY JUST BURN THE DAMN THINGS AND BE DONE WITH IT?
THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS CANNOT BE DESTROYED. NOT EVEN BY FIRE. ALTHOUGH NO ONE KNOWS HOW THAT'S POSSIBLE.
SOUNDS LIKE THE WORD OF ALCHEMY TO ME. AND ECKHARDT IS A MASTER OF THAT MEDIEVAL SORCERY.
VON CROY WAS INVOLVED WITH THIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG. IT IS WHERE HE UNEARTHED THE FOURTH OBSCURA PAINTING.
THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME, LARA. WE'RE LOOKING FOR CLUES ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE PAINTINGS WHEN WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR ECKHARDT.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. ECKHARDT IS TIED TO THE PAINTINGS. WE MUST FIND OUT WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO WITH THEM.
MAYBE HE'S GOT A LOT OF EMPTY WALL SPACE.
HERE NOW, NOBODY'S ALLOWED DOWN HERE.
MARGOT CARVER, I PRESUME.
[redacted] THE HELL ARE YOU?
WE HAVE A MUTUAL FRIEND. PROFESSOR VON CROY.
OH, THAT MAN. WELL, IF HE SENT YOU TO DELIVER SOME MESSAGE, THEN YOU CAN TURN RIGHT AROUND AND DELIVER ONE FOR ME. TELL HIM TO DROP DEAD.
A LITTLE TOO LATE FOR THAT.


THREE AND A HALF WEEKS AND NOTHING! NOT A WORD! NOT A PHONE CALL! AFTER ALL THOSE EMPTY PROMISES! I WAS SO FOOLISH TO BELIEVE HIM!
NOW CLEAR OUT OF HERE THIS INSTANT! BEFORE I SUMMON THE POLICE!
THERE'S SOMETHING I SHOULD TELL YOU FIRST...
IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH VON CROY, I DON'T WANT TO...
HE'S DEAD.
DEAD...? HOW...?
HE WAS KILLED YESTERDAY IN AN AMBUSH.
THEY WERE AFTER THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS.
OH MY GOD... MY GOD... I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET WERNER... TAKE THAT PAINTING OUT OF HERE...
THERE'S NOTHING HERE, LARA. LET'S CLEAR OUT AND LET HER HAVE SOME PEACE.
LARA? ARE YOU... LARA CROFT?
YES.
YOU DID IT!!

SHLAPP!


OOOMMPH!
WERNER TOLD ME... YOU'D STAND IN THE WAY. DO ANYTHING... TO STOP HIM.
STOP HIM FROM DOING WHAT?
STOP HIM FROM GIVING ECKHARDT THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS.
SO YOU KILLED HIM!

ECKHARDT KILLED PROFESSOR VON CROY.
HELP ME STOP HIM, MARGOT. TELL ME WHERE HE IS.

PRAGUE.
WERNER WENT THERE MANY TIMES TO MEET WITH ECKHARDT.
HE TOLD ME THAT WE WOULD LIVE TOGETHER... FOREVER!

WE'RE IN LUCK. PRAGUE IS LOVELY THIS TIME OF YEAR.
I KNOW IT WELL. HAD A BUSINESS DEAL THERE ONCE THAT GOT A LITTLE MESSY.
WONDER IF THE AUTHORITIES ARE STILL LOOKING FOR ME.
RAOUL, BE A DEAR AND GET THE PLANE READY, WOULD YOU? WE'RE GOING TO PRAGUE.
WE'LL MEET YOU AT THE AIRPORT IN TWENTY MINUTES.
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M BRINGING A GUEST ALONG.
I'M AFRAID OUR DINNER IN PARIS WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER TIME, LOVE.
HOLD ON!
WHABOOM!
SKREEEE!

BWAA-DOOM!

RAFF!
HU-UUARRRAAH...
THE PAINTING...
GOTTA... KEEP IT... AWAY FROM... ECKHARDT...

TO BE CONTINUED.

ANGELS OF DARKNESS

SCRIPT
JAMES BONNY

PENCILS
TONY DANIEL

INKS
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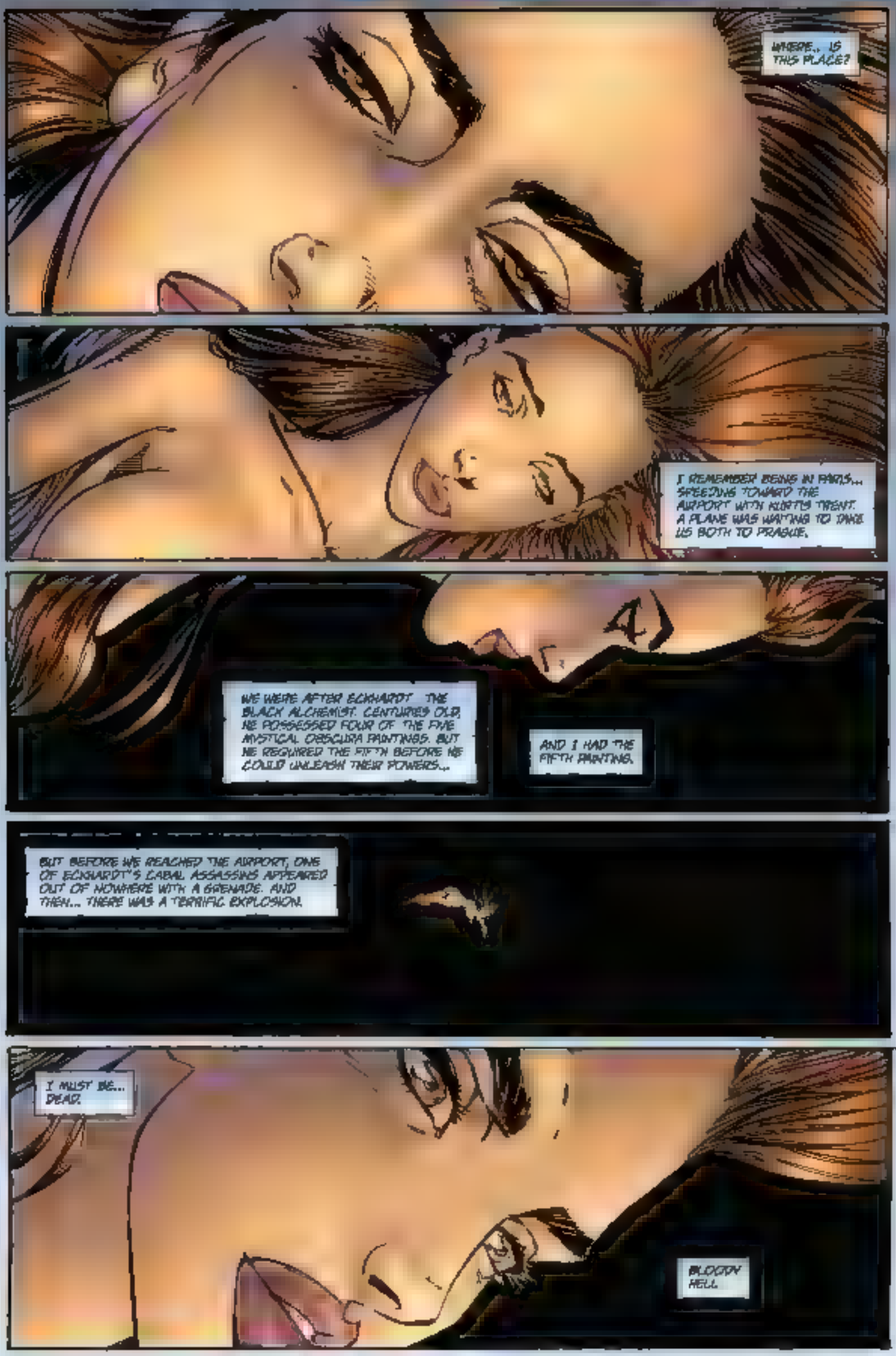
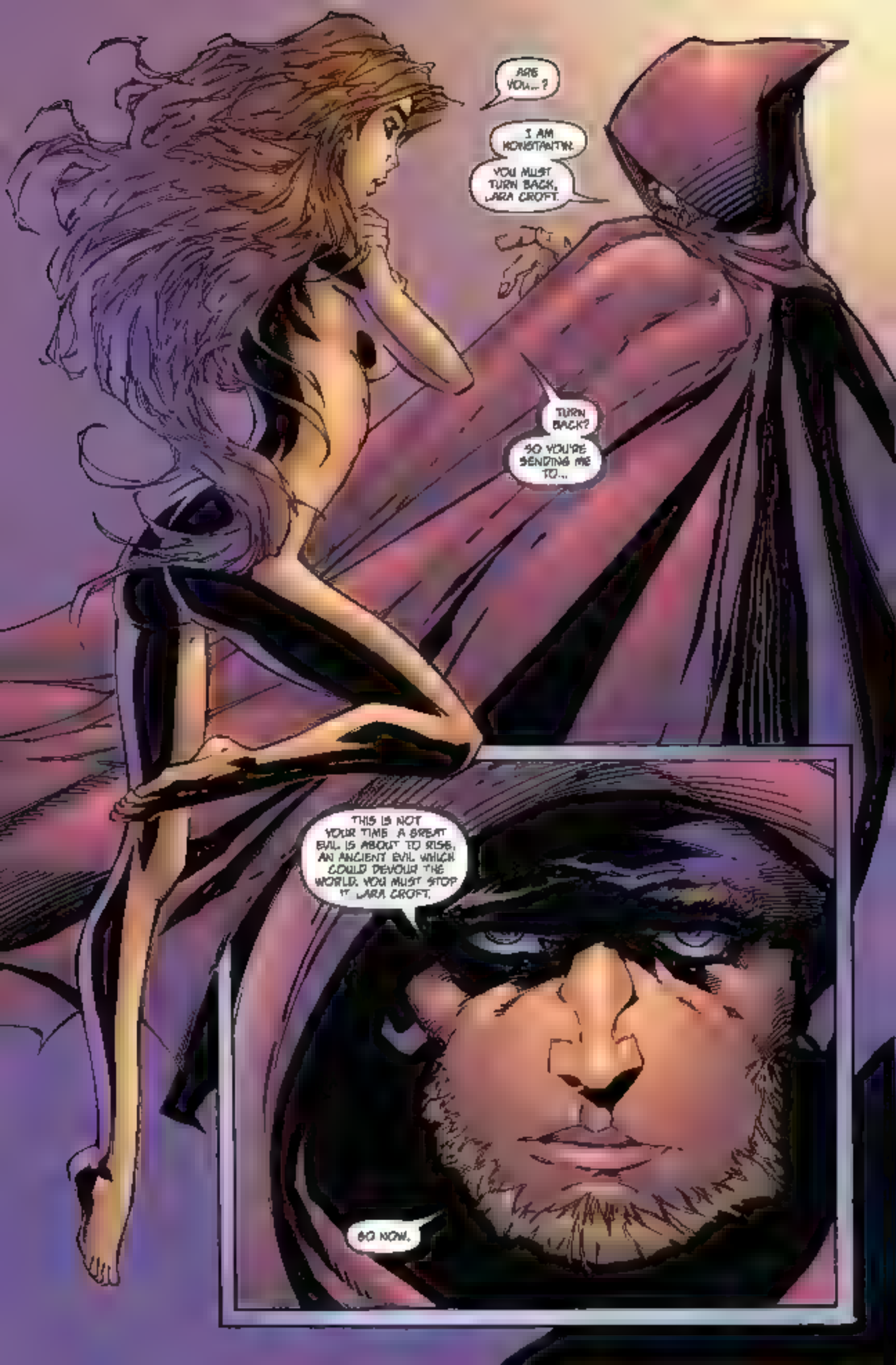
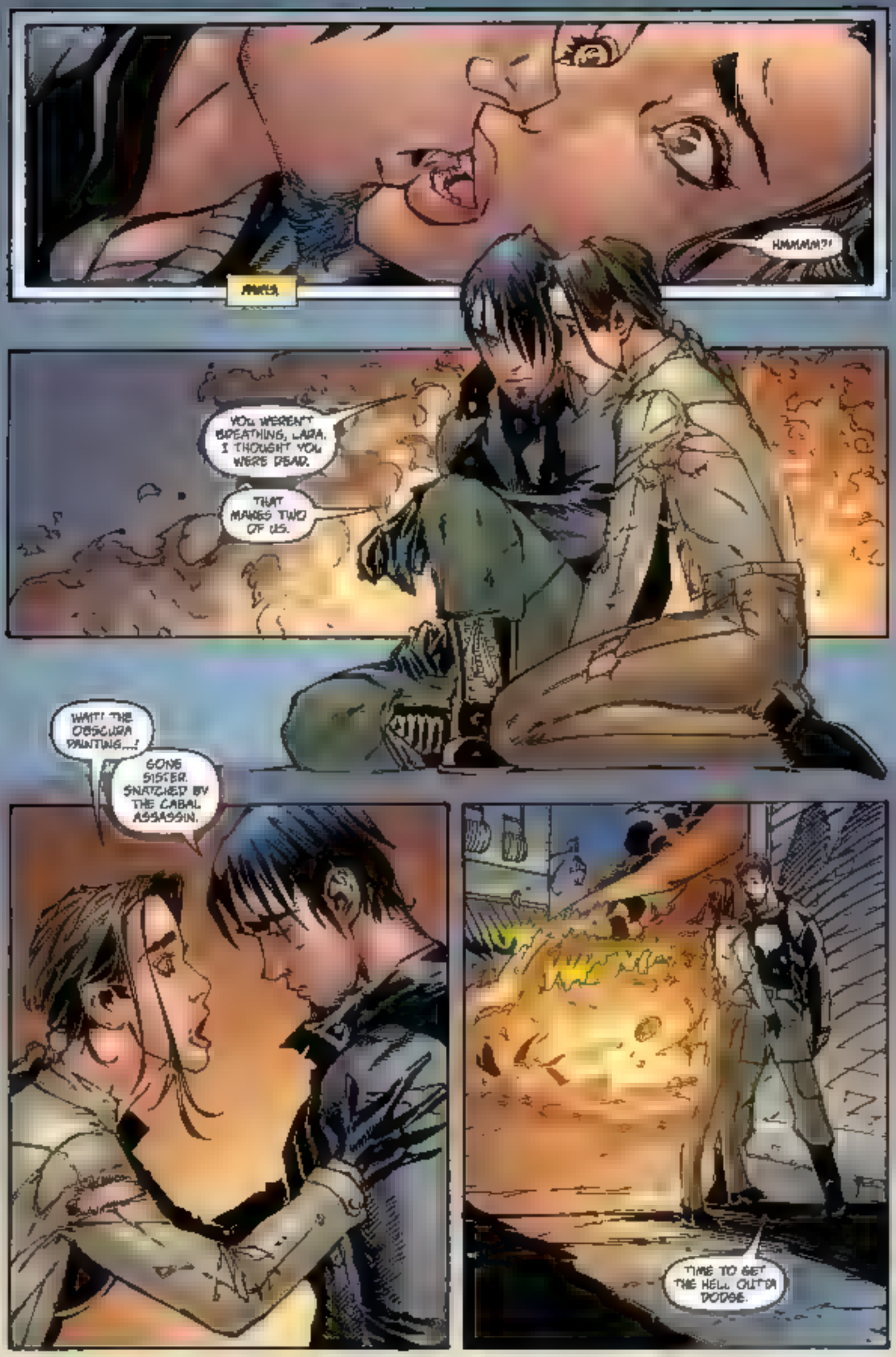
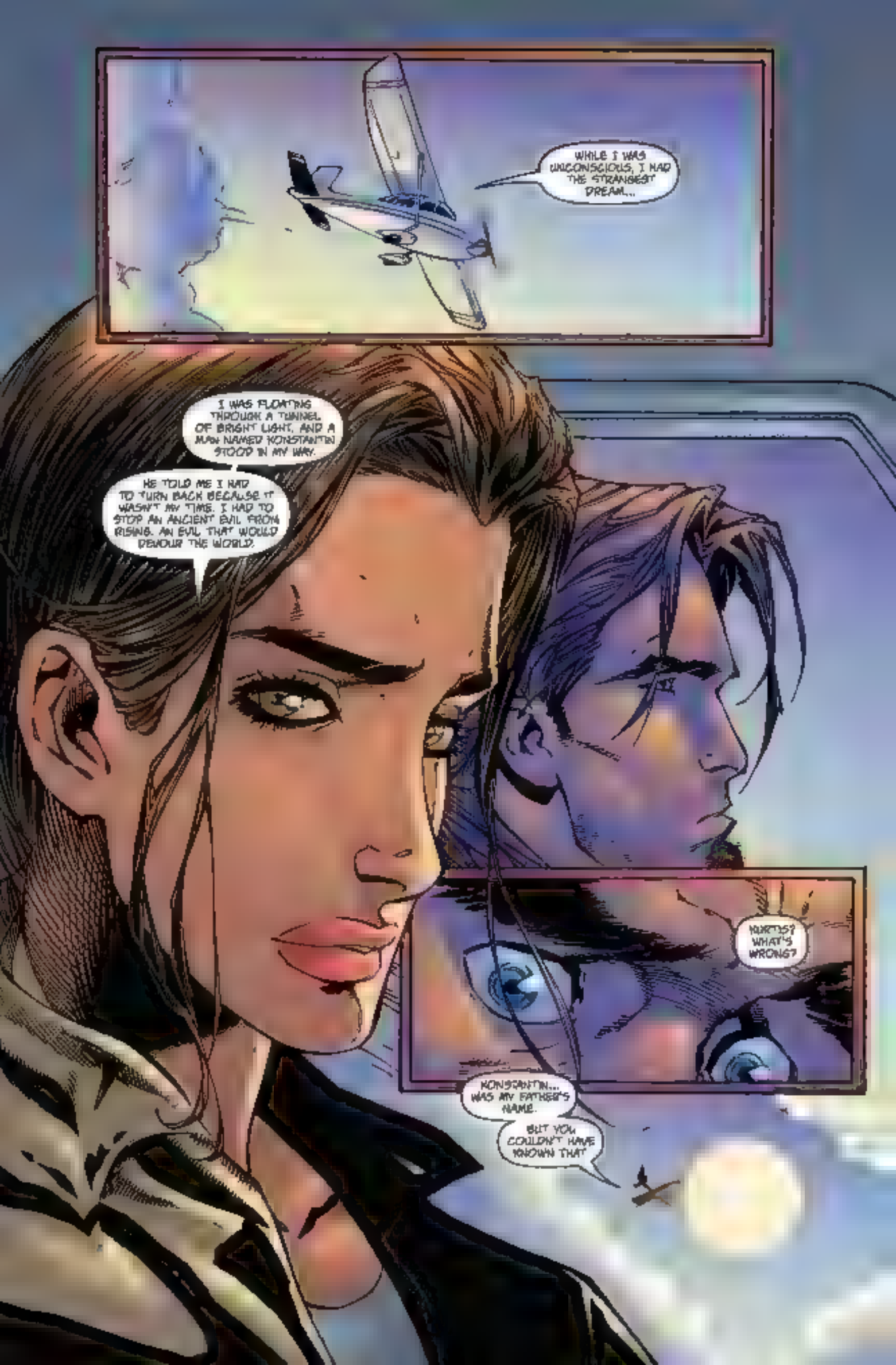

WHERE... IS THIS PLACE?
I REMEMBER BEING IN PARIS... SPEEDING TOWARD THE AIRPORT WITH KURTIS TRENT. A PLANE WAS WAITING TO TAKE US BOTH TO PRAGUE.
WE WERE AFTER ECKHARDT THE BLACK ALCHEMIST. CENTURIES OLD, HE POSSESSED FOUR OF THE FIVE MYSTICAL OBSCURA PAINTINGS. BUT HE REQUIRED THE FIFTH BEFORE HE COULD UNLEASH THEIR POWERS...
AND I HAD THE FIFTH PAINTING.
BUT BEFORE WE REACHED THE AIRPORT, ONE OF ECKHARDT'S CABAL ASSASSINS APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE WITH A GRENADE. AND THEN... THERE WAS A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.
I MUST BE... DEAD.
BLOODY HELL.

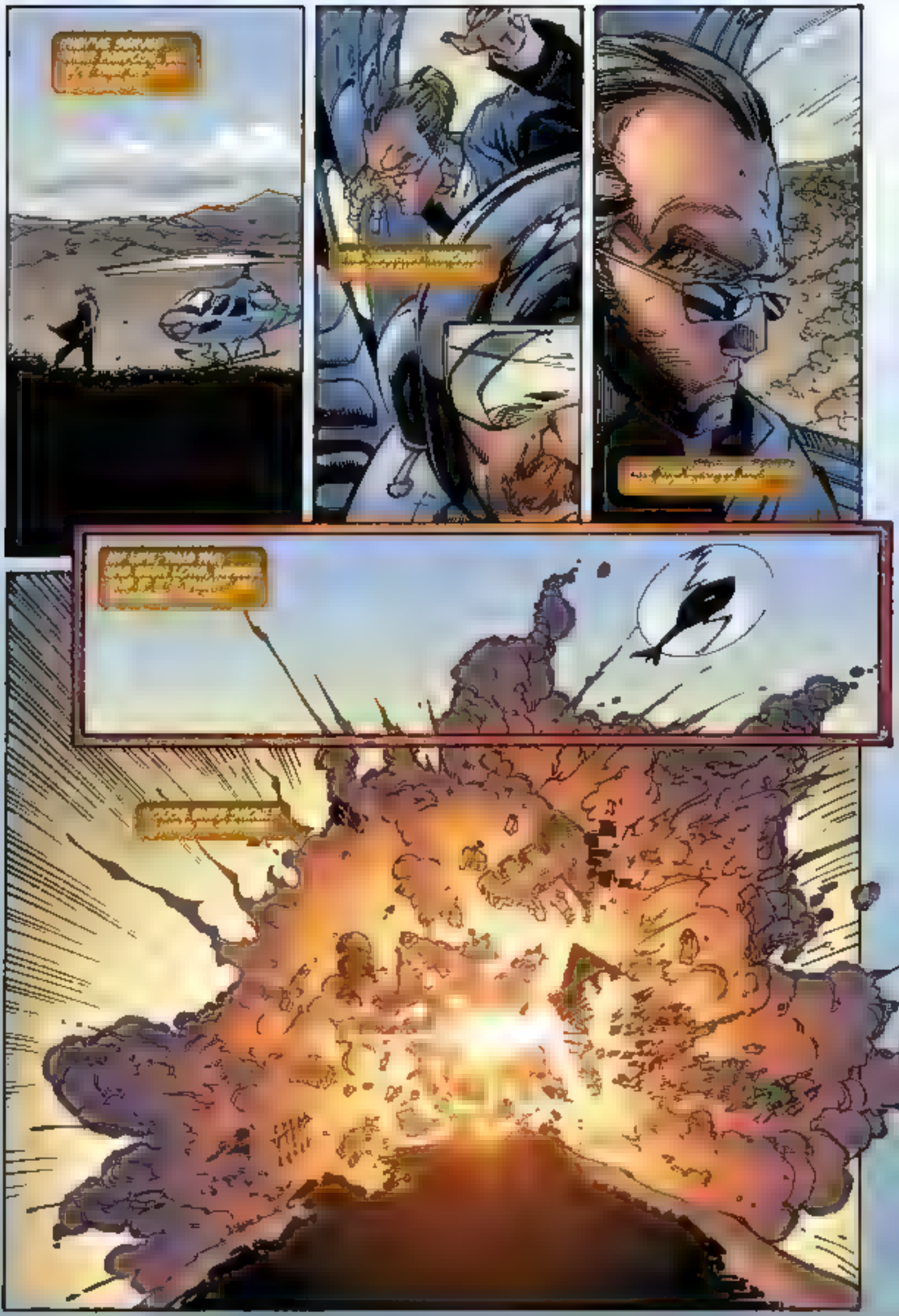
WHAT A PRETTY LIGHT. IS IT A STAR?
A NOW?
OH, RIGHT. THE TUNNEL OF LIGHT.
WELL, I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER GET ON WITH IT. IT WOULDN'T DO TO KEEP ETERNITY WAITING.
TIME TO UNLOCK THE FINAL MYSTERY
WHO IS THIS...?
COULD IT BE...?


ARE YOU...?
I AM KONSTANTIN.
YOU MUST TURN BACK, LARA CROFT.
TURN BACK?
SO YOU'RE SENDING ME TO...
THIS IS NOT YOUR TIME. A GREAT EVIL IS ABOUT TO RISE, AN ANCIENT EVIL WHICH COULD DEVOUR THE WORLD. YOU MUST STOP IT, LARA CROFT.
GO NOW.


HMMMM?!
YOU WEREN'T BREATHING, LARA. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
THAT MAKES TWO OF US.
WAIT! THE OBSCURA PAINTING...!
GONE SISTER. SNATCHED BY THE CABAL ASSASSIN.
TIME TO GET THE HELL OUTTA DODGE.


WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS, I HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM...
I WAS FLOATING THROUGH A TUNNEL OF BRIGHT LIGHT, AND A MAN NAMED KONSTANTIN STOOD IN MY WAY.
HE TOLD ME I HAD TO TURN BACK BECAUSE IT WASN'T MY TIME. I HAD TO STOP AN ANCIENT EVIL FROM RISING. AN EVIL THAT WOULD DEVOUR THE WORLD.
NURSE? WHAT'S WRONG?
KONSTANTIN... WAS MY FATHER'S NAME.
BUT YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THAT

PRAGUE.
THE EVE OF THE GREAT AWAKENING IS FINALLY UPON US...
IN A MATTER OF HOURS, YOUR PATIENCE AND SUPPORT WILL BE REWARDED.
YOUR TONGUES WILL TASTE THE SWEET NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY.
I ENVY YOU, MY FRIENDS.
MR. ECKHARDT... PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE ALL ACCOMPANIED YOU... SO THAT OUR SUPPORT COULD CONTINUE... UNABATED.
AN ADMIRABLE SUGGESTION, MR ROUZIC. UNFORTUNATELY, I MUST FACE THE SLEEPER ALONE. IT'S FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.
ADIEU.



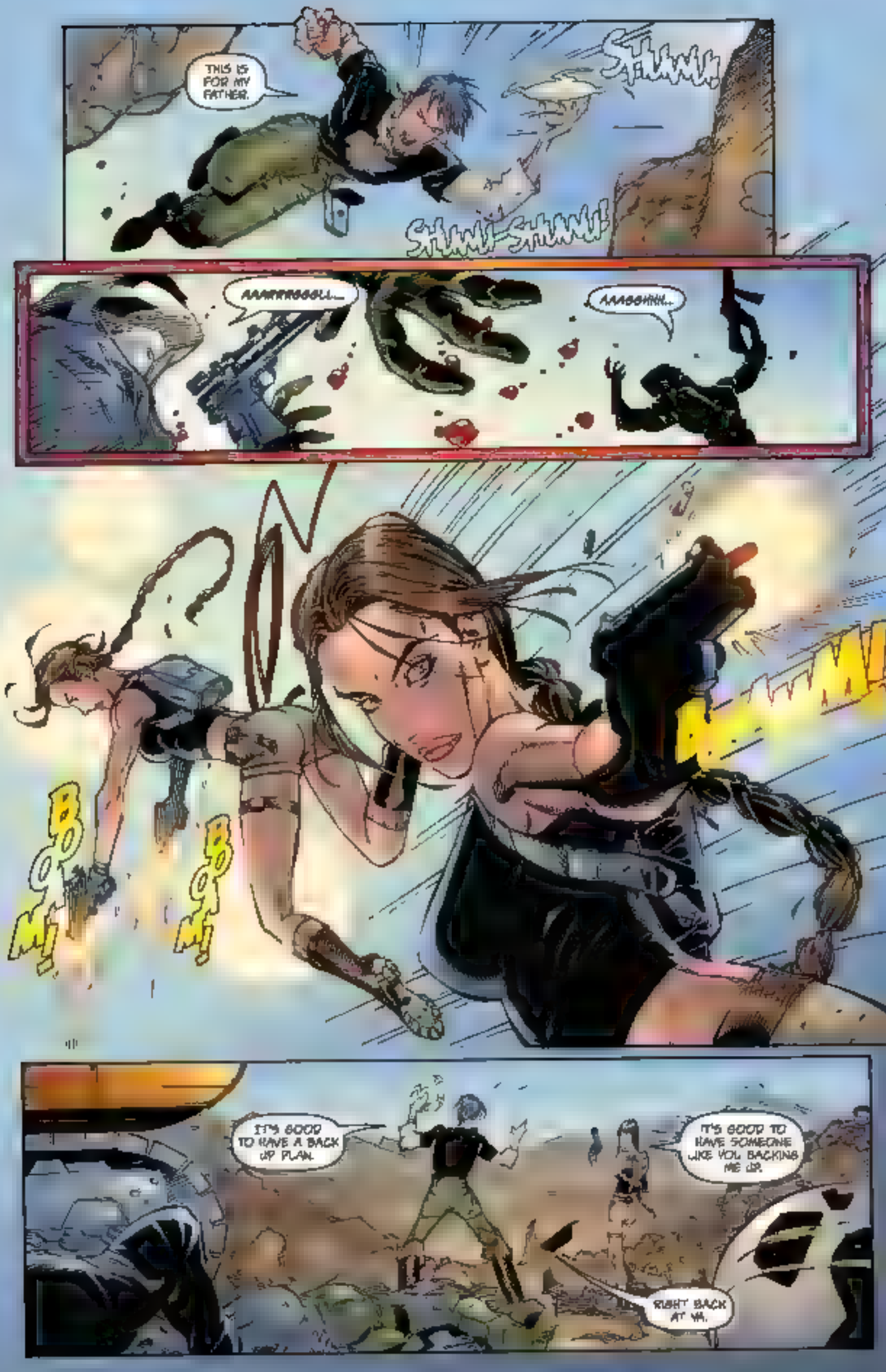
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED ONE HELLUVA BLOWOUT.
MR. ECKHARDT CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE AN EXIT
WHAT'S THAT?
A PAGE FROM A HANDWRITTEN JOURNAL. SOMETHING ABOUT A DIG IN CENTRAL CAPPADOCIA, TURKEY. AND THEN THERE'S THIS CURIOUS NOTATION...
"THE SLEEPER HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE BURIED CITY..."
HMMM?
ECKHARDT... <GASP!> BETRAYED US!
WHERE HAS HE GONE?
TO TURKEY... TO AWAKEN... THE NEPHILIM.
THE SLEEPER?
HE DID IT FIVE CENTURIES AGO... USED THE CREATURE'S BLOOD TO OBTAIN IMMORTALITY. BUT BEFORE HE COULD COMPLETE THE PROCESS, THE CREATURE WAS KILLED BY THE LUX VERITATIS.
KILLED? HOW?
WITH... <GASP!>... THE PERIAPT AMULET! ARRRH...

WHAT'S THE NEPHILIM?
A LEGENDARY RACE SAID TO PREDATE HUMANITY. ECKHARDT MUST HAVE DISCOVERED AN INTACT SPECIMEN...
AND HE INTENDS TO USE THE POWERS OF THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS TO REVIVE IT.
HE SAID THE PERIAPT AMULET KILLED THE LAST NEPHILIM...
MAYBE THESE SHARDS ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE AMULET.
RAOUL, BE A DEAR AND GET THE PLANE READY AGAIN, WOULD YOU...?
YES, I KNOW, I KNOW. BUT I'M AFRAID THIS CAN'T BE HELPED...
WE'RE GOING TO TURKEY, LOVE

CENTRAL CAPPADOCIA, TURKEY
THERE'S THE DIG.
RADU, LET'S PUT HER DOWN BEYOND THAT HILLSIDE.
ANYTHING YOU SAY, MS. CROFT.
ARMED SENTRIES.
MERCENARIES. I KNOW THE TYPE ONLY TOO WELL.

SO MUCH FOR SLIPPING PAST UNDETECTED.
WHICH LEAVES ONLY ONE OPTION, SISTER. THE FULL COURT PRESS.
WAIT HERE. I'LL HANDLE THIS.
YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIRE SUCH RECKLESS COURAGE...
AND THEN AGAIN, YOU'VE GOT TO WONDER IF THERE COULD BE SOMETHING ELSE BEHIND IT, DRIVING IT. COULD RECKLESS COURAGE BE A MEANS TO AN END?
THAT'S A QUESTION I'M NOT SURE I WANT ANSWERED.
LIFE CAN BE SO COMPLICATED...
WHILE DEATH IS SIMPLE.

ALL IT TAKES IS ONE WRONG MOVE.
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!


THIS IS FOR MY FATHER.
SHUWU!
SHUWU-SHUWU!
AAARRRGGGLL...
AAAGGHHH...
BOOM!
BOOM!
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A BACK UP PLAN.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU BACKING ME UP.
RIGHT BACK AT YA.

IT'S A FAIR BET ALL THAT SHOOTING OUT THERE DIDN'T GO UNNOTICED DOWN HERE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. ECKHARDT WOULD'VE "FELT" OUR PRESENCE NO MATTER WHAT HE HAS POWERS BEYOND THIS WORLD.
THESE SUBTERRANEAN RUINS ARE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD. IT'S A REMARKABLE FIND.
IT'S A SHAME ECKHARDT GOT HERE FIRST...

THUFFOOSH!
KURTIS?
AAHH...
WAKE, LITTLE ONE
WAKE.
WAKE AND GREET A GLORIOUS NEW DAY
KURTIS...?!

KURTIS TRENT IS AS DEAD AS HIS FATHER. THE LAST VESTIGE OF THE LUX I. VERITATIS ORDER HAS BEEN WIPED CLEAN FROM THE EARTH.

IN A MOMENT, I WILL CONTINUE THE PURIFICATION OF THIS WORLD BY REVIVING THE MIGHTY NEPHILIM RACE.

I ENVY YOU, MISS CROFT. YOU'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE COMING OF A NEW EPOCH. THOUGHT IT WILL BE BUT A BRIEF GLIMPSE FOR THE NEPHILIM WILL BE QUITE RAVENOUS AFTER ITS LONG SLUMBER.

I SUPPOSE THIS IS THE POINT WHERE I SHOULD INTERJECT THAT YOU ARE QUITE MAD.

OR WOULD THAT BE RUDE?

ONCE THE NEPHILIM HAS AWAKENED... AND FED... I SHALL USE ITS BLOOD TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF IMMORTALITY. AND THEN I SHALL RELEASE IT INTO THE WORLD, WHERE IT WILL GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY.

MULTIPLY... HOW? THERE'S ONLY ONE

THE NEPHILIM ARE ASEXUAL. TO REPRODUCE, THEY NEED ONLY FEED, THEN DIVIDE. ONE BECOMES TWO...

...AND TWO BECOMES... MILLIONS. WHICH MEANS MILLIONS OF HUNGRY MOUTHS TO FEED.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF HUMANS TO GO AROUND.

THIS DAY HAS BEEN FORETOLD FOR MILLENIA. THE DAY THE ANGEL OF DARKNESS WILL RISE.

ANGEL...? OR DEMON?

ALL IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, MY DEAR.

WITH THE NEPHILIM AS MY ARMY, I SHALL HOLD DOMINION OVER THE EARTH.

FOR ALL ETERNITY

WOOSH!

THE FIVE HAVE COME TOGETHER...

WOOSH!

THE FIVE WILL BECOME ONE...

AND BRING LIFE TO THIS LIFELESS...

WOOSH!

WAKE, MY FRIEND...

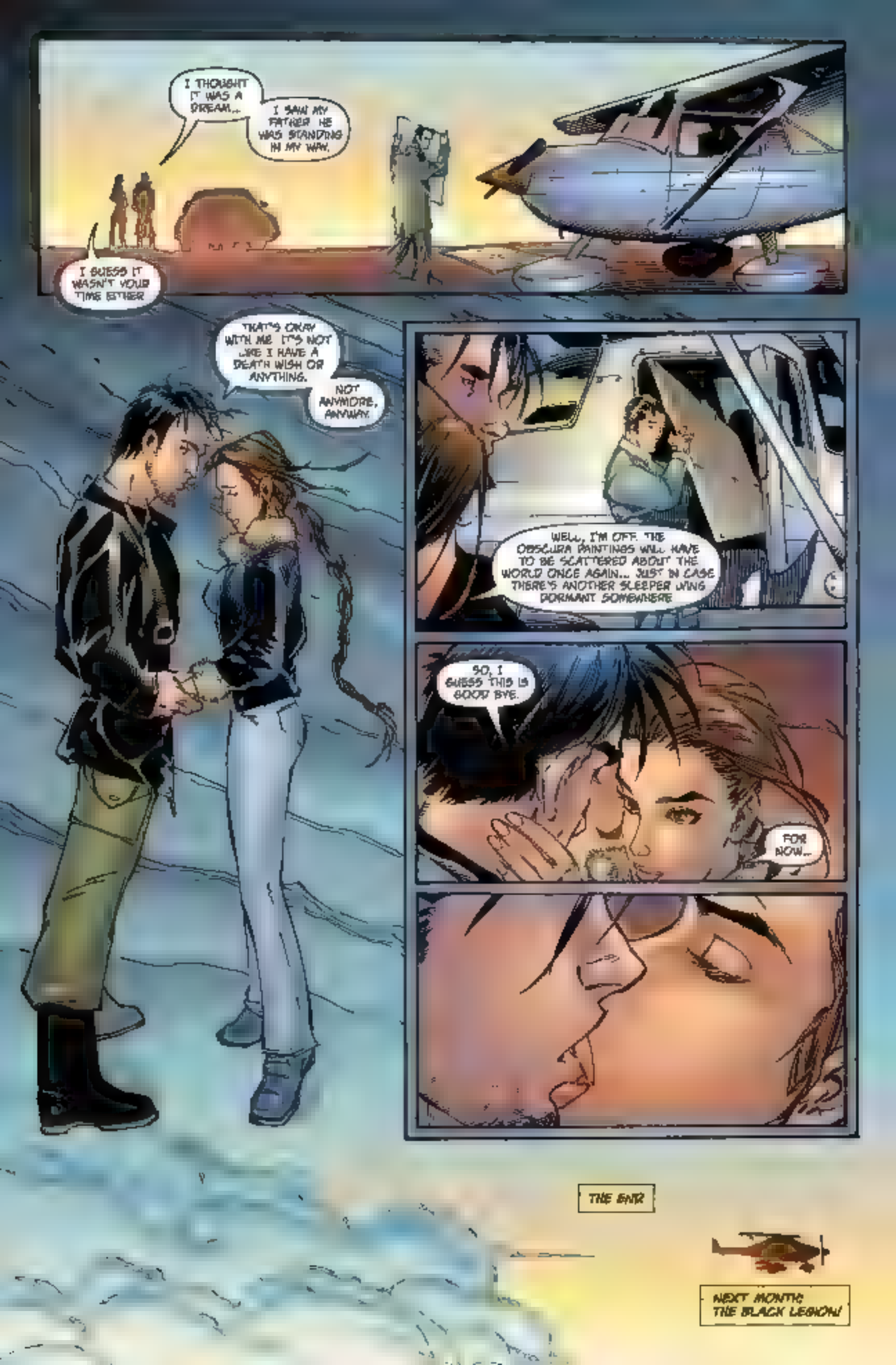
WRAAKE!

BLOODY HELL
HE DID IT
SHWK-SHWK-SHWK
SHWK-SHWK
WHOMP
KURTIS...?
KILL HIM! AGAIN!

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME, FOOL.
NEITHER WAS YOUR FATHER.
VOOOM!

OH, THIS ISN'T GOOD.
WHA...?! NOOO!
AAAAAIEEE!

LARA, THE SHARDS.
WHAT THE HELL. I'LL GIVE IT A GO.


I THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM...
I SAW MY FATHER HE WAS STANDING IN MY WAY.
I GUESS IT WASN'T YOUR TIME EITHER
THAT'S OKAY WITH ME. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A DEATH WISH OR ANYTHING.
NOT ANYMORE, ANYWAY.
WELL, I'M OFF. THE OBSCURA PAINTINGS WILL HAVE TO BE SCATTERED ABOUT THE WORLD ONCE AGAIN... JUST IN CASE THERE'S ANOTHER SLEEPER LYING DORMANT SOMEWHERE
SO, I GUESS THIS IS GOOD BYE.
FOR NOW...
THE END
NEXT MONTH: THE BLACK LEGION!

TOMB RAIDER

COLOSSAL COLLECTION • VOLUME ONE

COVER GALLERY

ANDY PARK

DAN

DAVID FINCH

MICHAEL TURNER
JD SMITH
1999

MARC SILVESTRI

ANDY PARK
JD SMITH

Andy Park
RI

ANDY PARK

ANDY PARK

ANDY PARK

JD SMITH

KEU CHA
KEU CHA
PATRON
JD SMITH
2000

ANDY PARK
JD SMITH

Joe Jusko
JUSKO
Y2K

ANDY PARK

ANDY PARK
JD SMITH

ANDY PARK

ANDY PARK

TAN N
SMITH

BILLY TAN

ANDY PARK

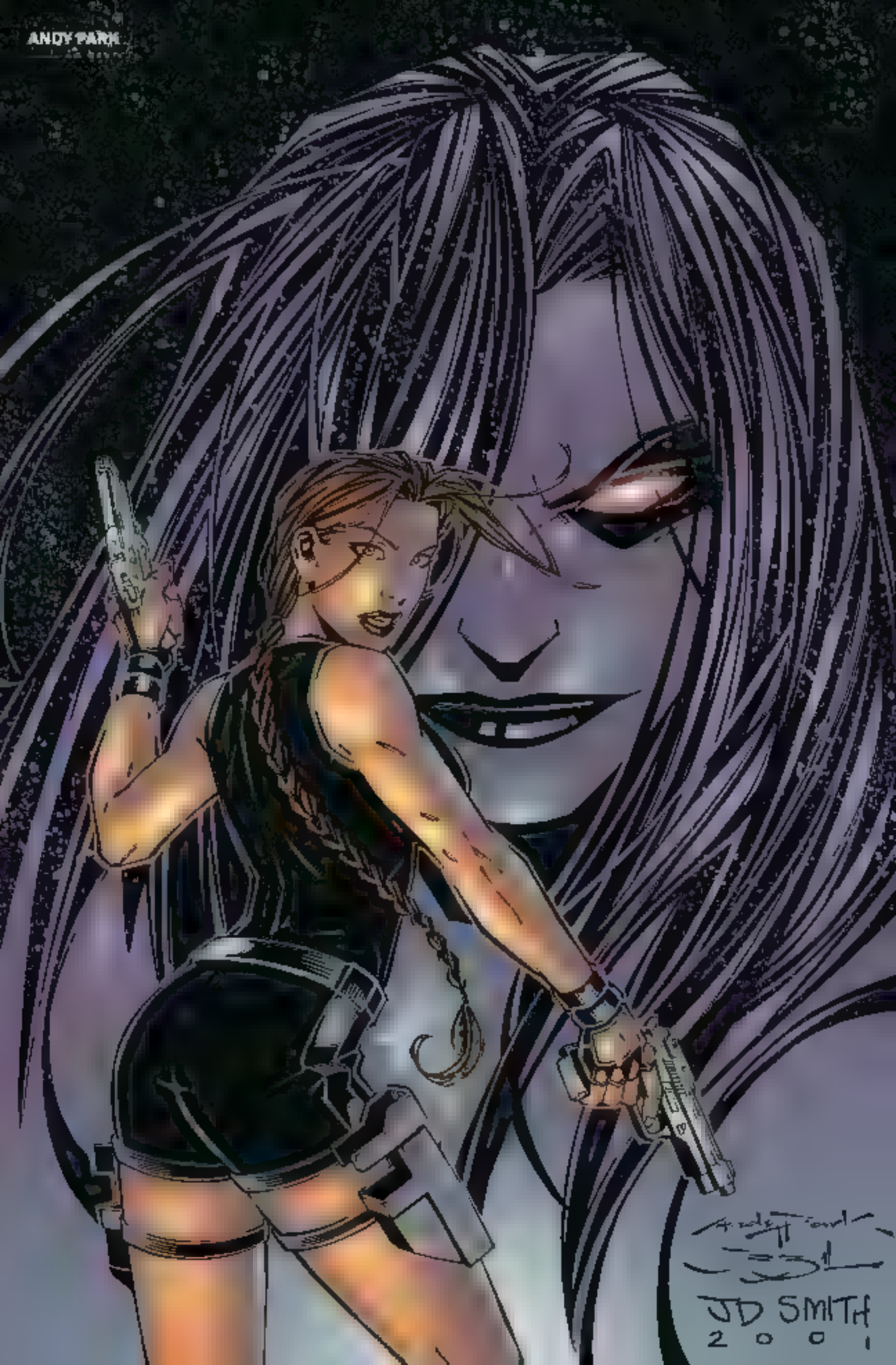
ANDY PARK
SP SMITH '0

ANDY PARK

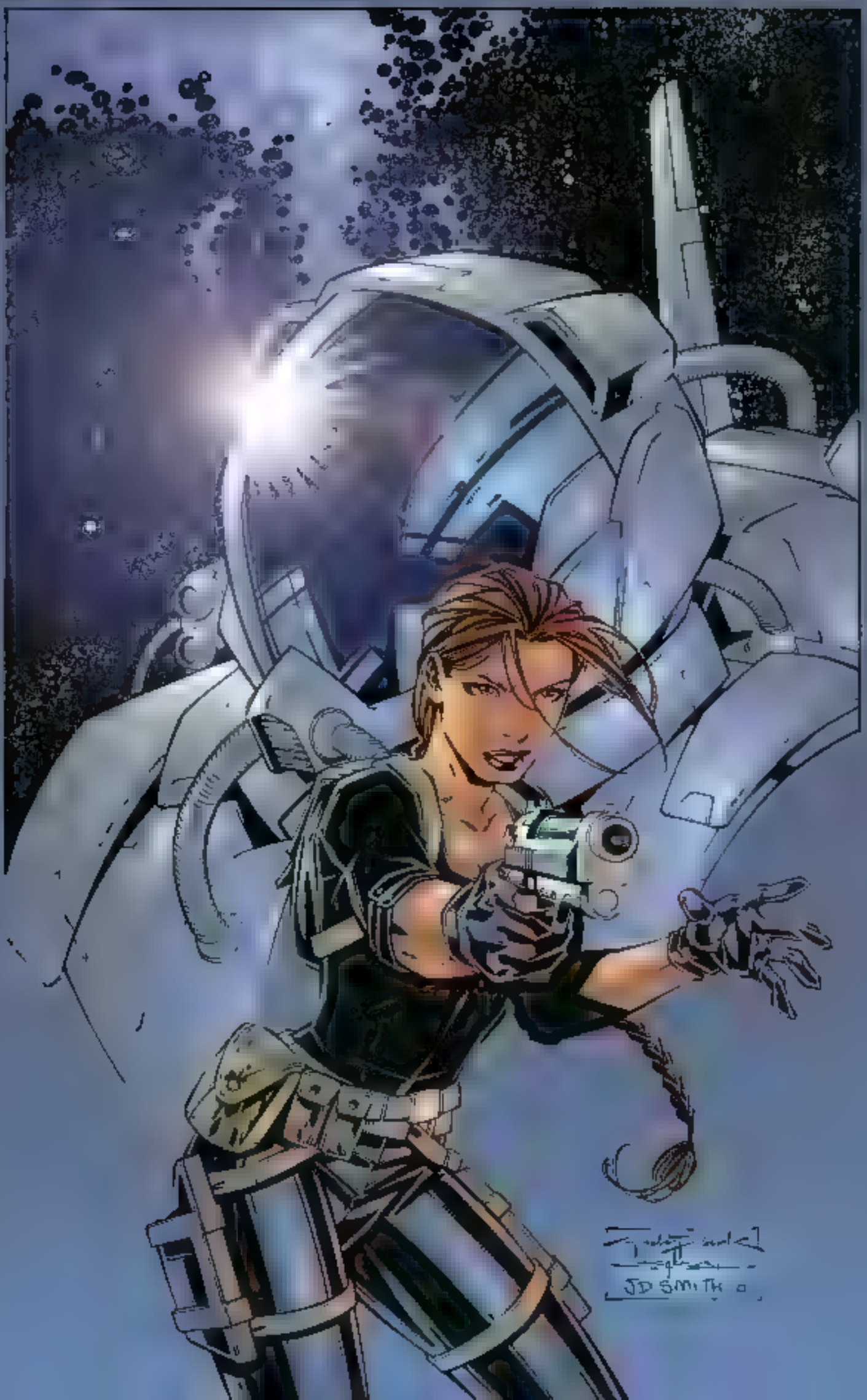
JD SMITH '01

ANDY PARK

DAVID FINCH


ANDY PARK
JD SMITH
2001

ANDY PARK


JD SMITH

AH!

ANDY PARK
JD SMITH

ANDY PARK

RANDY GREEN
JD SMITH

RANDY GREEN

CLARENCE LANSANG

RANDY GREEN
JV SMITH
2002

RANDY GREEN
JD SMITH
2002

ANDY PARK

RANDY GREEN

EDGE CORE

CLARENCE LANSANG

EDGE CORE

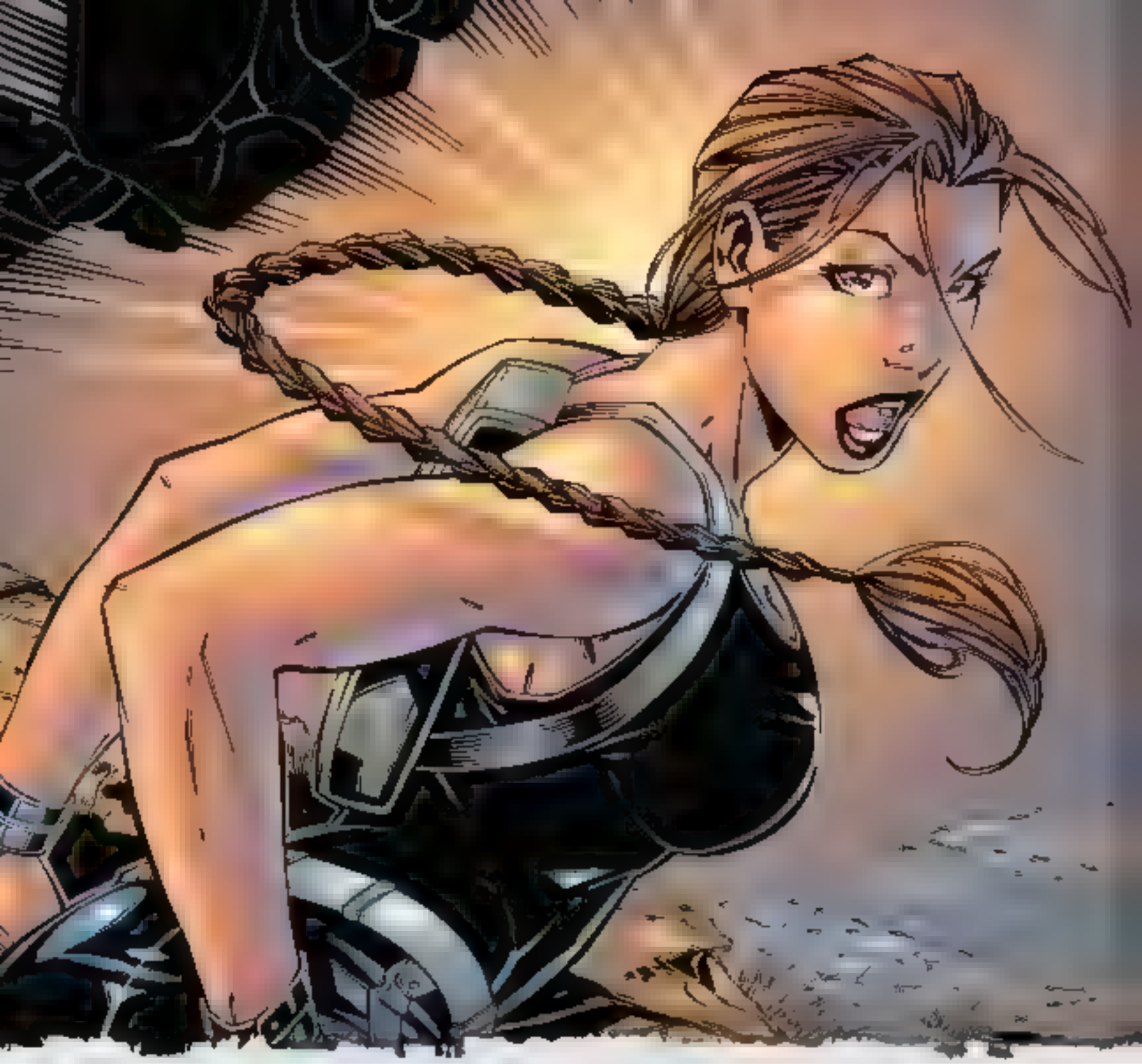
MHAN
2k3
Stephanie Legniak

ADAM HUGHES

ADAM HUGHES
AH!

ADAM HUGHES

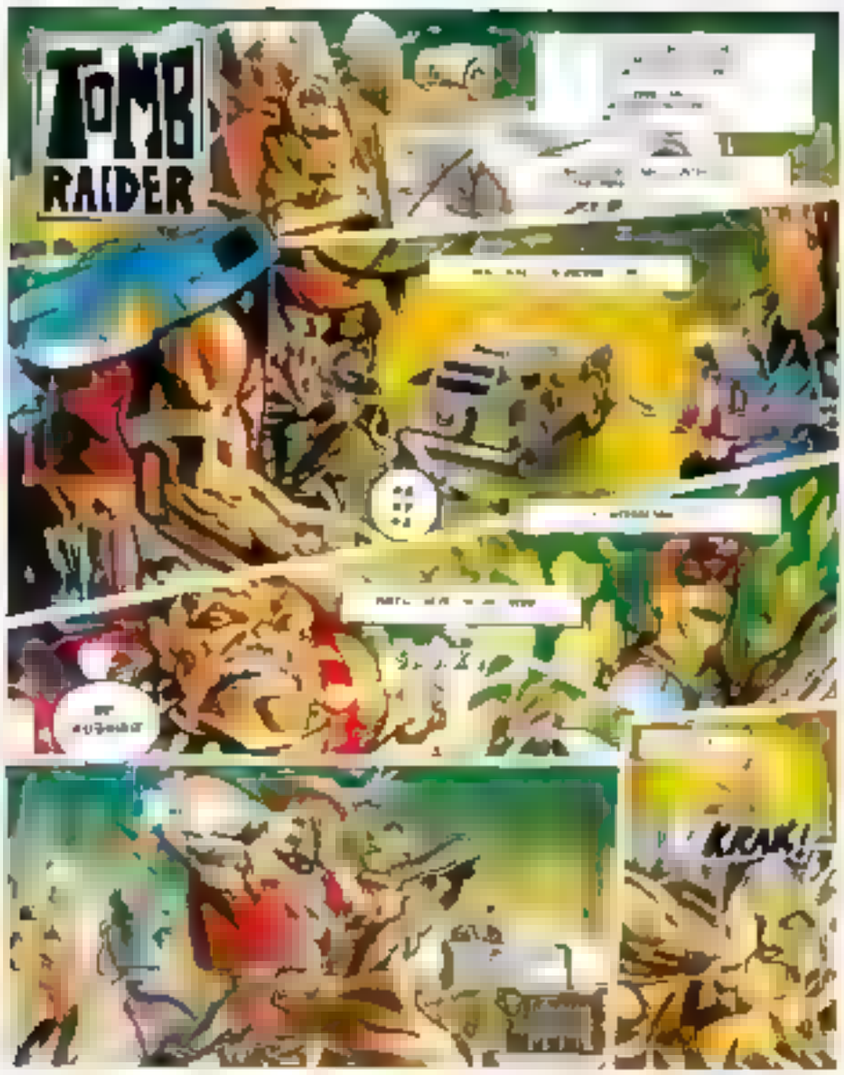
TONY DANIEL



MEAN MACHINES
SEGA COMIC
SEPTEMBER 1996

The first-ever published piece of *Tomb Raider* franchise fiction, this comic strip debuted prior to Lara's first digital adventure in late 1996, years before the collaboration with comics giant Top Cow. Eight pages of illustrations in issue #47 of the UK magazine *Mean Machines SEGA* introduced Lady Lara Croft to the world. The original comic pages are now in a private collection alongside documentation between developer Core Design, artist Paul Peart, and writer Vicky Arnold, solidifying it as canon in the Croft universe.

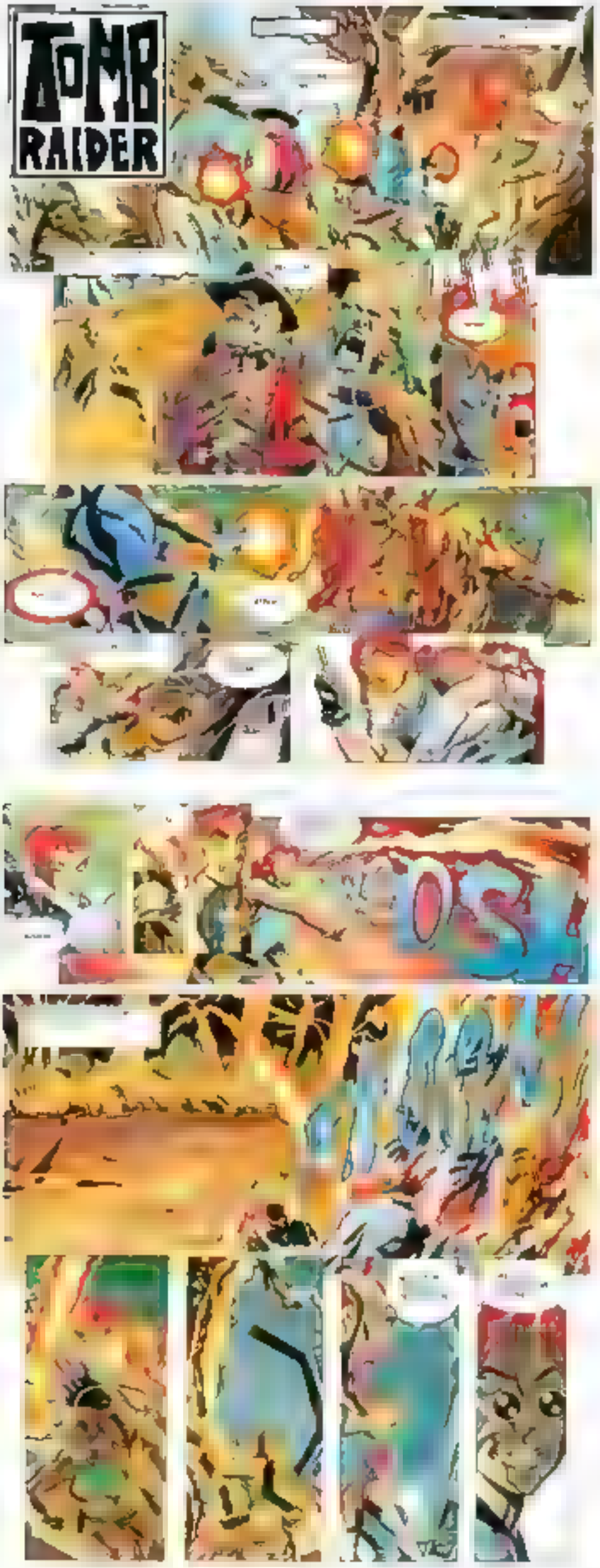
Scans provided by Luke Earle.

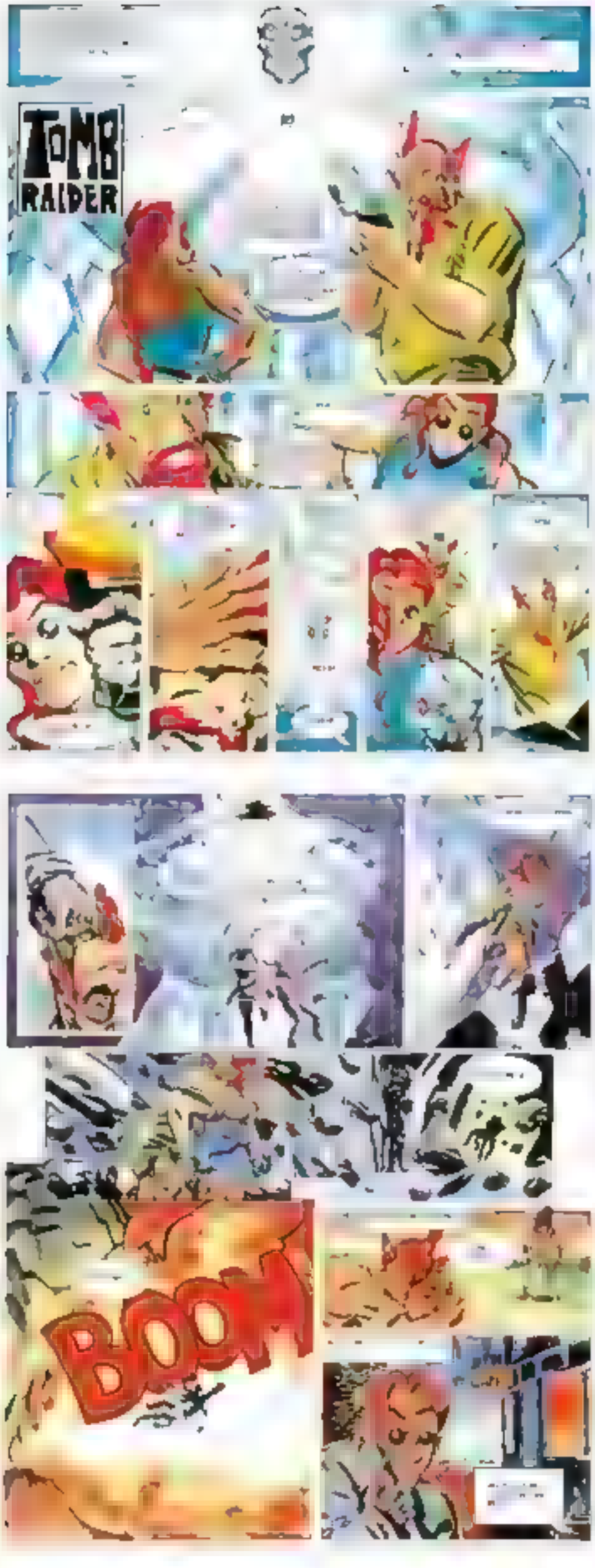

TOMB RAIDER
KRAK!

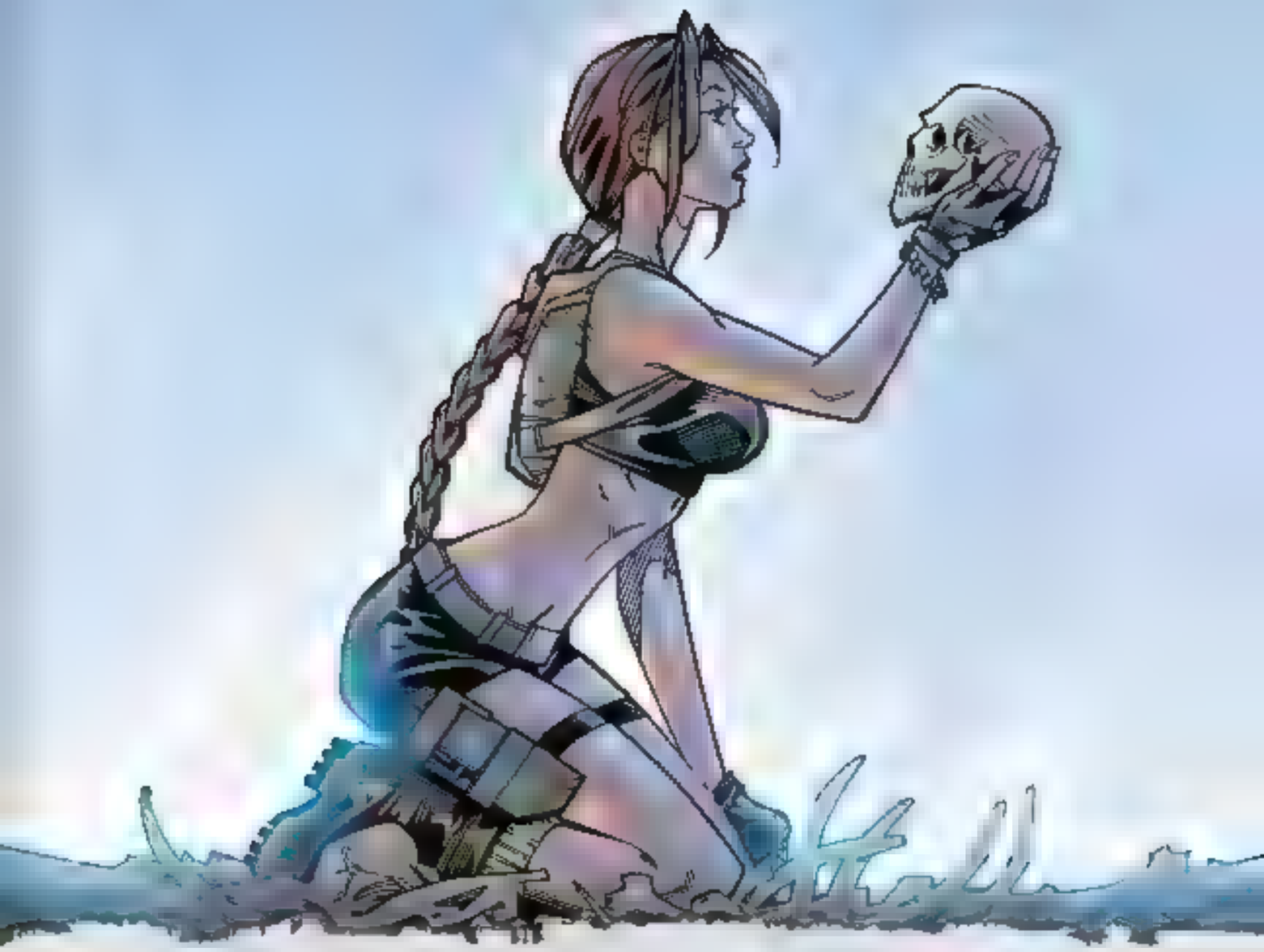
SNAP
HE WON'T

TOMB RAIDER

SPLASH


TOMB
RAIDER


TOMB
RAIDER
BOOM



TALES OF LARA CROFT

DECEMBER 2003–AUGUST 2007

Tales of Lara Croft—a publication boasting comics and illustrated stories crafted by fans—was first published by U.S.-based Atlantis Studios in 2003. Editor James Watson created customized comics for clients as the bread and butter of his business. Recognizing the abundance of *Tomb Raider* fan art and fan fiction readily available online, Watson was eager to unite the two in a high-quality "comic art fanzine."

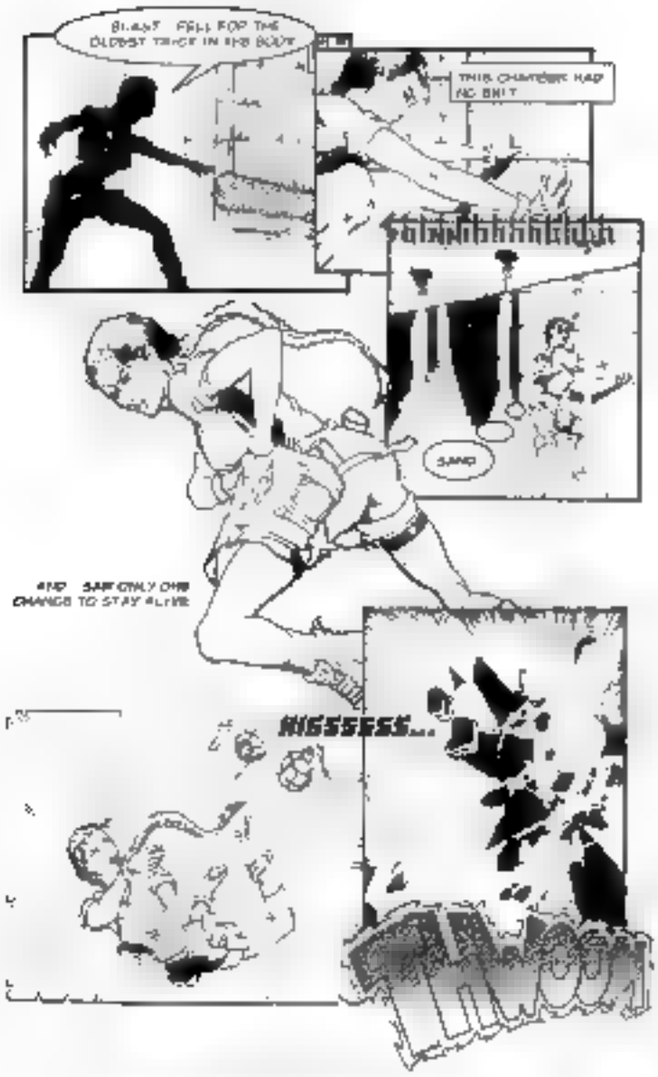
Working alongside friend and fellow fan Vicki Williams, Watson called for submissions via a dedicated Yahoo group, which also helped match authors with artists. Pairs would collaborate on self-contained stories, expanding upon Lara's existing adventures or creating their own noncanonical events. The first issue of *Tales of Lara Croft* launched in late 2003, complete with a blessing from Eidos to publish as a nonprofit, fan-created comic. Readers could order *Tales of Lara Croft* through prominent fan site Planet Lara for $5.95—priced only to cover printing costs. A total of six issues were released, boasting thirty original comics and illustrated stories. On the following pages you'll find two tales from issue #3, including "Alone," written by editor James Watson with art by Randy Nunley, and "In the Game," by longtime fan artist Stephanie Vaudable

THERE'S NO SOUND BUT MY OWN BREATH
BUT I WON'T BE HEARING THAT MUCH LONGER, NOT WITH ONLY TWO SQUARE METERS OF AIR, AND TEN THOUSAND TONS OF ROCK EMPRISONING ME IN A SILENT TOMB.
I CAN'T CHEAT THIS ONE.
BUT THEN I ALWAYS KNEW WOULD DIE ALONE.
ALONE
STORY BY JAMES WATSON
ART BY RANDY HUNLEY

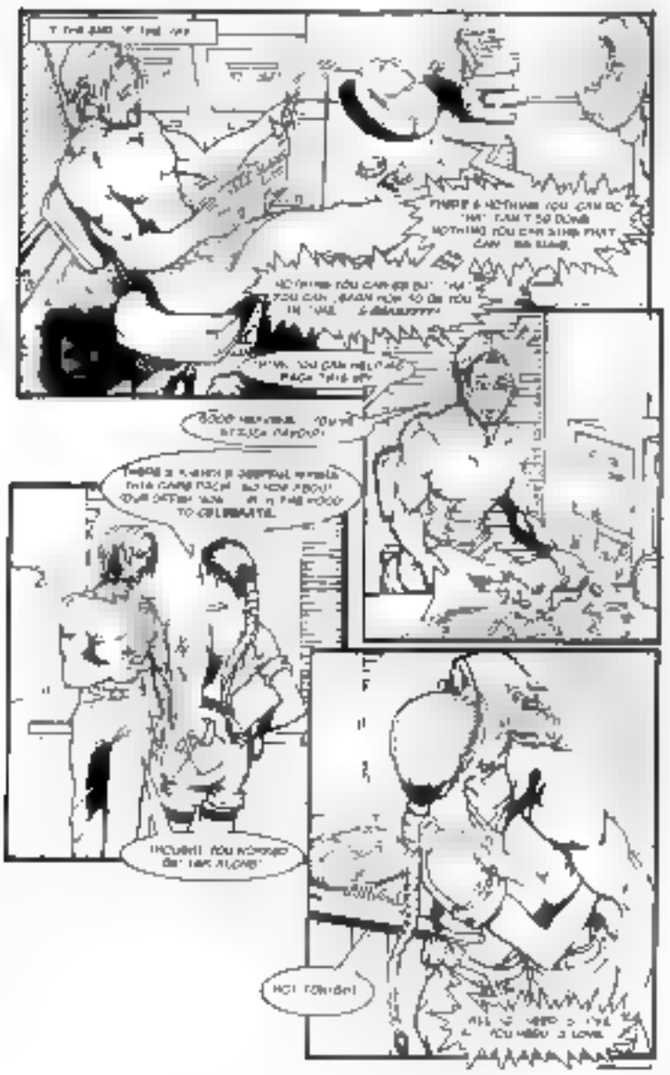
THIS TRIP TO RWANDA LOOKED TO BE EXTREMELY PROFITABLE
THE SACRED PAPYRUS THAT I HAD PICKED UP IN ALEXANDRIA INDICATED THE LOCATION OF THE TOMB OF ANNA SET, THE FORGOTTEN PRINCESS OF THE NILE
THE PHARAOH HAD HER BURIED FAR UP THE RIVER WITH A KING'S RANSOM OF JEWELS AND GOLD SURROUNDING HER IN DEATH. IT WOULD BE MINE IF I FOUND IT
IT WAS NO TIME TO TAKE A PARTNER NOT EVEN A CHARMING ONE
WELL, I NOT LIKE US TO HAVE A LOVELY LADY VISIT THESE JUNGLES. HELP YOU WITH YOUR GOODS? CARRY YOUR BAGS?
NO THANK YOU CAN MANAGE
SHAME FOR SOMEONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU TO TRAVEL ON HER OWN. CARE FOR A COMPANY
VERY TEMPTING
BUT I WORK BETTER ALONE
MINI LOVE

WHYSTOW HADN'T WANTED ME TO TAKE THIS TRIP
HE HAD SCOLDED ME FOR ALWAYS TRAVELLING ALONE. I THINK LADY LIKE HE HAID TO PUT CHEBBLE IN MUCH DANGER.
AND YET I'VE BEEN ALONE FOR OVER TEN YEARS.
WAS ALONE ON THE SLOPES OF THE HIMALAYAS FACING THE RAVENOUS FANGS OF THE YETI. WAS A DESPERATE, FRIGHTENED SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE WITH BARE FROST-BITTEN HANDS.
WAS ALONE WHEN MY PARENTS DIED, LEAVING ME THEIR VAST INNER TANGE AND ALONE ON EVERY EXPEDITION SINCE.

IT'S BETTER THAT I WORK ON MY OWN
WHAT IS THERE POOR SOULS MISSED?
AH YES.
TOO DANGEROUS TO TAKE A PARTNER
DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE A BABYSITTER.
NOT WHEN DEATH IS AROUND EVERY CORNER OF THESE TOMBS
AND I MIGHT CATCH UP TO YOU AT ANY MOMENT
THUNK!
THUNK!


BLAST FELL FOR THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK
THIS CHAMBER HAD NO EXIT
SAND
AND SAW ONLY ONE CHANCE TO STAY ALIVE
HISSSSSS...

BLAM! BLAM!



IN THE DARK SHADOWS OF AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TOMB, A COURAGEOUS YOUNG WOMAN HAS NEARLY REACHED HER GOAL
AT LAST
IN THE GAME
Art by Tipsaline Mordable
IT'S AHEM SO LONG TO GET THROUGH THIS LEVEL OF THE TEMPLE
CAN PLACE THE ANGLE IN THE STATUE OF HORUS. IT SHOULD OPEN UP THE HIDDEN GATE

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
LORETTA! LORETTA
LORETTA, IT'S AMI. SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE IN THE GAME
HOW HOW WILL EVER FINISH IF I'M CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED!
ANTIS AD ARROGANT PROBABLY USING CHEATS AND WALKTHROUGHS
IF THE BETTER PLAYER AND I'M GOING TO PROVE
GRAP THE GAME IS FROZEN
SO WHAT? THERE'S NO WAY YOU FINISH THE GAME BEFORE YOU'VE SEEN

HAS THE AMULET TAKEN CONTROL OF ME IN SOME MYSTERIOUS WAY? OR IS IT SOMETHING ELSE?!?
WHAT POWER IS IT THAT DRIVES ME TO EXPLORE! TO BRAVE THE DANGERS... TO RISK DEATH OVER AND OVER AGAIN?
HOW COME THE CROCODILES ARE MOVING... BUT ARA IS NOT?

WHAT IF I AM BEING CONTROLLED BY SOME OTHER BEING? WHAT THEN?
IS A SHORTCUT

TOMB RAIDER™

COLOSSAL COLLECTION • VOLUME ONE

When it comes to recovering priceless artifacts from lost civilizations and bygone eras, there is no one more capable than British archeologist and adventurer Lara Croft.

Armed with an encyclopedic knowledge of history, years of experience, and dual pistols, Lara will go to the ends of the earth to preserve the world's most precious treasures from a shadowy organization intent on her destruction. Luckily Lara won't have to go it alone as she's joined by roguish playboy Chase Carver and her buttoned-up assistant Madeline Hovan! Join Lara and her friends as they face down unfathomable foes, betrayal, and ancient secrets!

This colossal, hardcover volume collects #1–#24 and #26–#34 of the 1999 Top Cow *Tomb Raider* series and features stories from legendary creators **Dan Jurgens, Adam Hughes, Michael Turner, Andy Park, Marc Silvestri, David Finch, and many more!**

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